Sunday, September 9, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 273 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE *Sunday*
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

JOB Market It's different here, it's better

THE "PULL-ASIDE:" It's not clear if President Arroyo or US President Bush did the pulling but here they are for that much-awaited chat. AFP

GMA, Bush meet, finally

'Hey, Gloria' he says and takes notes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY (VIA PLDT)—THE MUCH TOUTED one-on-one between President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President President George W. Bush finally materialized yesterday in a brief lounge chat as the two leaders arrived at the Sydney Opera House for the opening of the 2007 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit.

But in that brief period, the President managed to extract from Bush a commitment to support and sign into law a US congressional bill that would grant long-delayed pension benefits to 18,500 surviving Filipino veterans who fought with the United States Armed Forces during World War II, including those living in the Philippines.

"Hey, Gloria. Did you finish everything we talked about?" Bush was quoted by Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr. as greeting Ms Arroyo upon their arrival at the leaders' waiting lounge of the Sydney Opera House. Bush could be seen taking notes while Ms Arroyo talked, Paynor said.

The "pull-aside" made up for the disappointing cancellation of an expected bilateral meeting with Bush last Friday that was canceled at the US's behest.

In lieu of the 20-minute meeting, the two leaders briefly chatted during a lunch that Bush hosted on Friday for seven

GMA/ A4

THAT TOWERING FEELING
Tourists canoe past a limestone cliff in El Nido, Palawan. ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

In death, top of PMA class '06 is icon to talented, deserving poor

By Vincent Cabreza and Leoncio Balbin Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SANTO DOMINGO, ILOCOS Sur—A newspaper account in April that reported his illness, an episode of a TV drama that recalled his father's violent death, and a recent benefit walkathon have lent drama to the struggle of Air Force 2nd Lt. Ariel Toledo against liver cancer.

But the stories that will give meaning to the death on Wednesday of Toledo, 27, the Philippine Military Academy's Class 2006 valedictorian, are often lost in the theatrics.

The remains of Toledo, one of the outstanding sons of Santo Domingo, were flown home at 10 a.m. yesterday, accompanied

IN DEATH/ A8

Only place in town where soldier-priests' dreams are joined

By Tarra Quismundo

IN THIS BOOT CAMP, MEN prepare for battle with the gospel as their weapon, the cross as their shield and God as their Commander in Chief.

Instead of the blare of chants and the rhythmic thud of marches, prayers and contemplation blanket this one-of-a-kind training camp inside Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. Instead of preparing for war, here men train for a different mission: To keep the country's armed services on the side of God.

Unknown even to airmen who reside and work inside the base, Villamor is home to Domus Josephi, a unique seminary that serves as the headquarters for pastoral formation under the Philippine military diocese.

ONLY PLACE/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

At Bonifacio High Street for alfresco art appreciation where anyone can look, touch, listen to the installations
LIFESTYLE / D1

Gilda Cordero Fernando: It's so romantic for a geriatric couple to have a hair dye together in the same parlor
LIFESTYLE / C1

Pictorial of PDI's Man IN Hollywood and his adventures with Johnny Depp, Woody Allen, Vanessa Redgrave, Heath Ledger, Ewan McGregor, Charlize Theron, Keira Knightley
ENTERTAINMENT / G1

The Ultimate boy toy: Hey, ho, let's go G.I. Joe!
SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

Epileptics seize the moments to live normally

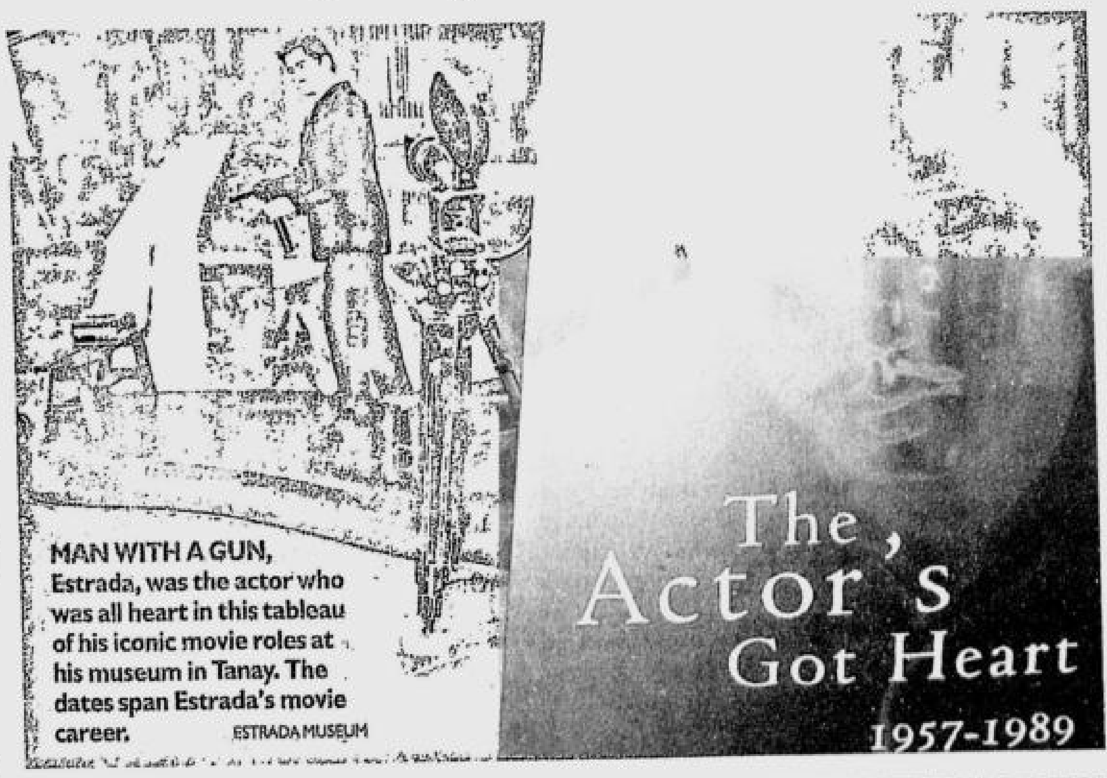
By Tessa R. Salazar

DESPITE THE MYSTERY STILL wrapped around it, persons with epilepsy (PWEs) are showing that it is possible to live productive lives and contribute what they can to a society that is often "unkind."

Two of them spoke with the INQUIRER in time for the 6th National Epilepsy Awareness Week, which ends today. They explained how they have managed to cope with their medical condition—which commonly manifests itself in seizures and is caused by sudden, brief changes in how the brain works—in the hope of erasing

EPILEPTICS/ A7

Detained, Erap freed to make history, build legacy



MAN WITH A GUN, Estrada, was the actor who was all heart in this tableau of his iconic movie roles at his museum in Tanay. The dates span Estrada's movie career. ESTRADA MUSEUM

By Volt Contreras

HE MAY HAVE BEEN IN DEtention for the last six-and-a-half years, but in ways beyond his jailers' control, Joseph Estrada remains free and able.

After being kicked out of Malacañang, taking the back exit on a barge across the Pasig River, and enduring public indignities that not even the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos suffered, the cameras kept rolling, so to speak, for the former President and movie star.

Filipinos stayed glued to his next scene, whether tearjerker, punch line, or (political) brawl. And on Sept. 12—the day the Sandiganbayan court hands down the verdict in his P4-billion plunder case—his audience is apparently in for

IN DETENTION/ A4

GMA orders: Use 'komiks' to save the environment

By Jerry E. Esplanada

OUT OF THE blue, she told us to do a comic book on the water crisis and to have it ready in five days ... "*Ganun siya pag naisipan niya* (She's like that when she gets an idea). She's that intense. She's focused on the problem."

National Commission on Culture and the Arts executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez was talking about President Macapagal-Arroyo, who recent-

GMA ORDERS / A6

EZ2
(25)(10)

SIX DIGIT
(1)(5)(2)(9)(3)(9)

SUERTRES
Mid-Day (8)(7)(6) | Evening (3)(4)(6)
(All in exact order)

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
(7)(17)(22)(27)(31)(39)
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/08/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Palace: 'Medy' acted on her own

Saludo calls Doble 'polluted' source, 'perjurer'

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DENIED IT HAD ordered Remedios "Medy" Poblador to stop former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble from revealing the source of the "Hello Garci" tape at a scheduled press conference inside a Catholic seminary in 2005.

Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said in an interview yesterday that Poblador, a Palace official and reportedly a niece of Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales, intervened "in her personal capacity."

"It's between her and Rosales," said Saludo when asked to respond to the testimony of Doble before a Senate inquiry that Poblador had convinced him to join his family in the military camp after a Catholic bishop escorted him out of the San Carlos seminary in Makati City where he and another whistle-blower had sought refuge.

The incident, said Doble, caused him to clam up. But the former intelligence agent was now ready to admit that it was he who leaked the controversial "Hello Garci" tape, which caught President Macapagal-Arroyo talking to former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about a million-vote lead days after the 2004 polls.

Although Poblador was an undersecretary detailed with the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office in the lower house, Malacañang did not order her to try to convince Doble in June 2005 to leave San Carlos seminary in Makati, Saludo said.

"The involvement of Poblador was upon the behest of the Catholic Church and military," Saludo said, stressing that both institutions wanted Doble out of the seminary.

Worried priests

"If you will recall, the police and military were preparing to end the (standoff) inside the seminary, while the priests were themselves worried over the possible eruption of violence," he said.

Medy, said Saludo, was also close to other princes of the Catholic Church such as Balanga, Bataan, Bishop Socrates Villegas.

On Poblador's instructions, Villegas brought Doble from the seminary to Camp Aguinaldo's White House, the official residence of the AFP Chief of Staff where Gen. Efren Abu, Doble's wife Arlene and two children waited.

Offer of help

At Camp Aguinaldo, Doble said Poblador offered him "help" if he would not testify in investigations into the wiretapping scandal.

Regarding Doble's recent decision to testify, Saludo questioned his credibility, calling him a "polluted" source and "perjurer."

"Based on his own testimony, he (Doble) received P2 million from someone who is close to former President Estrada," Saludo said in Filipino. The bribe-giver, whom he did not name, was now in the security services business, he said.

Saludo belittled the impact of Doble's exposé, pointing to Thursday's televised joint Senate hearing where administration Senators Joker Arroyo, Richard Gordon and Juan Ponce Enrile took turns in attacking his credibility.

He said he expected the Senate not to "further waste their time" on Doble.

Doble claimed he was part of a team from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) involved in bugging phone conversations of several national and political figures with the help of big telecom firms Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecoms.

Both firms have denied any participation, saying they had no capability to bug phones.

State security

Meanwhile, Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. or the head of Isafp should file charges against Doble "because when he was under Isafp, he was under oath not to divulge anything for the security of the state."

Apostol said instituting criminal proceedings against Doble was not tantamount to harassment.

Violation of military law

"No, because Doble violated military law. There's no harassment. Doble is destroying the credibility of the AFP, but he is not being harassed. In fact, he was even allowed to testify before Congress. Now, he's (facing) a Senate (inquiry). But the problem is that he is divulging the secrets of the state and that is a real violation," Apostol said.

He said Smart and Globe could also sue Doble.

"These companies should lodge criminal cases against Doble because he made it appear that Smart and Globe were involved in wiretapping ... Doble is already suicidal. These companies must clear up their names, and one way of doing it is by going to court," he said.

Lawyers: Arrest Teodoro

A GROUP OF HUMAN RIGHTS lawyers yesterday urged the arrest of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and seven other top military officers if they fail to attend the next Senate hearing on the 'Hello Garci' wiretapping controversy.

In a statement, the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) noted that a memorandum cited by Teodoro and the others for their nonappearance at Friday's hearing had no legal basis.

"The Senate must compel Secretary Teodoro and company to attend in the next hearing on the Hello Garci scandal. If they refuse, the Senate should cite them in contempt, order their arrest, ready their detention cell in the Senate and file criminal and other appropriate charges," the NUPL said.

The lawyers asserted that the Supreme Court, in its decision nullifying Executive Order 464, had upheld the power of Congress to summon executive officials to congressional inquiries. *Alcuin Papa*

EVERYBODY PLAYS
Sen. Pia Cayetano poses with some beneficiaries of the Gabriel Symphony Foundation, sponsor of the Super Kids Triathlon, a 12-hour multi-sport celebration aimed at raising funds for differently-abled children held at Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The event was also held in memory of Gabriel Cayetano Sebastian, the youngest child of the senator who died due to complications of Trisomy 13, a rare chromosomal disorder. In photo, Cayetano carries 2-year-old Ronald Ponciano, with, from left, Henielyn Llanes Supang, 9; Mark Pabiona, 10, and Raniel Opeña, 20. ROGER MARGALLO

Abalos to sue JDV son for libel over bribery allegation

By Beverly T. Natividad
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

EMBATTLED COMMISSION ON Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. is set to file libel charges next week against Jose "Joey" de Venecia III after the latter accused him of offering him a $10-million bribe in exchange for withdrawing from the national broadband network (NBN) project.

Abalos yesterday vehemently denied De Venecia's allegation, saying he had instructed his lawyer to take legal action against his accuser.

"I am definitely denying what he said. Who am I to make a representation to make a bribe?" said Abalos.

De Venecia had said Abalos offered him the $10 million to back out of the NBN deal.

De Venecia, son of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., is a cofounder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) which had also offered to undertake the NBN project.

The younger De Venecia said Abalos offered him the bribe when they met in the latter's office at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City sometime in December last year.

He said Abalos pleaded with him to let him have the contract for ZTE Corp. of China because he would have nothing to do after his retirement.

De Venecia said that during the six times that they met at Wack-Wack, Abalos tried to convince him to back out, but he refused because he believed his firm offered a better deal for the government.

De Venecia said Abalos even invited him to Shenzen, China, on Dec. 27 last year for a meeting with ZTE officials, during which Abalos reportedly bragged that he would be the most powerful person in the Philippines during the election period.

De Venecia yesterday urged Abalos to take a leave of absence from the Comelec while the investigation of the ZTE deal was being conducted.

"Out of *delicadeza* (proprietty), he should go on leave," De Venecia said in a phone interview.

Abalos has been accused of lobbying for ZTE allegedly in exchange for favors and other concessions from the Chinese firm.

"If he's being harassed by all these allegations of impropriety, he should step down for a while. Lobbying for that contract is a big issue and all those trips were inappropriate," De Venecia said.

DPWH exec shot dead in Cotabato City

COTABATO CITY—ANOTHER government official was shot dead here even as police were still trying to solve other recent attacks staged by unidentified gunmen.

On Friday morning, Steve Sinarimbo, 39, administrative officer of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), was killed while on his way to work in a jeepney.

Senior Insp. Willie Kasuyo, city police spokesperson, said two men on a motorcycle had apparently trailed Sinarimbo from his house before shooting him.

He said that after he was hit, Sinarimbo tried to fire back. "He died while being brought to the hospital," Kasuyo said.

Sinarimbo was the third government official killed here this month alone.

Last week, Macario Calunsag, head of the local Social Security System (SSS) branch and city postmaster Akmad Kamsa, were killed in separate incidents.

Calunsag's and Kamsa's deaths prompted the Central Mindanao police command to order the relief of Cotabato City police chief Supt. Paniares Adap.

Chief Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Central Mindanao police director, said he had asked City Mayor Muslimin Sema to name Adap's replacement from a list of three candidates.

Senior Insp. Carmelita Pauya, deputy police director, was named to replace Adap temporarily.

Shortly after the deaths of Calunsag and Kamsa, Councilors Wilfrido Bueno and Hadji Abdullah Andang assailed the city police force, saying they failed to put a stop to the attacks on government officials here.

Last year, the head of the ARMM social fund office, Arnel Datukon, was slain as he headed to work.

Shortly after Datukon was ambushed, Regional Trial Court Judge Sahara Silongan was murdered, also in a gun attack.

A few years ago, Social Welfare Deputy Director for Central Mindanao Joel Maglunob was killed by an assassin.

No one has been arrested for the murders.

In a privilege speech during the city council's regular session on Tuesday, Bueno said, "There seems to be no solution to these crimes. The police said hired killers were behind the deaths but the culprits, as in other past cases, have remained unknown and at large."

Bueno said the killings might remain unresolved because the police had even failed to put a stop to petty crimes like theft. *Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Fund lack real reason for resetting barangay polls, says solon

By Christian V. Esguerra

BAYAN MUNA REP. TEODORO Casiño sees a hidden political agenda in the move of his colleagues in Congress to postpone next month's barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

The move seems to be driven by "personal financial convenience," said Casiño in an interview with the INQUIRER last week. Politicians definitely want to help put their barangay stewards in place before the 2010 elections but lack the funds to support them because of the just-concluded midterm and local government elections, he said.

The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved on second reading a consolidated bill seeking to move the barangay and SK elections to 2009.

"All this talk about congressmen wanting the government to save money by postponing the elections is just a pretext for the fact that they don't want local candidates to come knocking at their doors to seek financial backing," he said.

Casiño said these lawmakers had yet to recover the hefty amounts they spent in the May elections.

He said they were looking at a two-year grace period up to 2009 to replenish their coffers so they could financially support their candidates for barangay and SK positions.

But such an attitude would eventually compromise the spirit of democracy at the barangay level, Casiño said.

The government, he said, would still be spending for the barangay and youth elections regardless of when they are held.

"Many congressmen really want a postponement, but will we deprive our people of their right to give a fresh mandate to their barangay officials?" he said.

The Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER) agreed that resetting the barangay and SK elections to 2009 would also deny voters the right to replace their village leaders.

In a statement yesterday, IPER executive director Ramon Casiple said the first postponement of barangay elections in 2005 had already given sitting barangay and SK officials two years of "unmandated" leadership and another postponement would only extend the "credulity" of their mandate even more.

"The right of suffrage is a human right recognized and protected by our Constitution. The people and youth at the grass roots level want bad leaders to be replaced even as the good ones may be affirmed and retained. Postponement of barangay and SK elections will deprive them of this opportunity," Casiple said

The fact that the barangay election will be held not long after the May election is not a valid reason to postpone it, Casiple said.

Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas, author of the bill postponing the elections, expressed optimism the bill would pass on third reading this week.

‘No people power for Erap’

CEBU CITY—CEBU ARCHBISHOP RIcardo Cardinal Vidal yesterday spoke out against another “people power” revolt in the event the Sandiganbayan hands down a guilty verdict against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Vidal said he recently spoke with Estrada and the latter had told him he was no longer interested in politics but would devote himself instead to philanthropic work after his case is ended.

After a six-year trial, the Sandiganbayan is set to announce its decision on Sept. 12.

Vidal said he was concerned protest rallies being organized by different organizations, including supporters of the deposed president, would result in violence.

“Of course, we are wary whether he is convicted or not. Either way, I think, there will be some effect on the followers,” he said.

“We should not tell our people anymore to do this ‘people power’ because that will affect our economy again,” he said.

Catholic Church leaders had played a dominant role in calling people out to the streets during the 1986 and 2001 people power revolts that brought down the governments of Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada, respectively.

“Whatever would be (the verdict), let us see how we can help him,” Vidal said.

Vidal, 76, a long-time friend and spiritual adviser of Estrada, said he promised the latter he would help him pursue his plan to help poor families.

“Of course, I was trying to help him by saying, after this case, you can still be great if you spend your life with the poor and we can help you in that program,” Vidal said.

He said he also advised Estrada to “just put your mind on the future.”

Fr. Carmelo Diola, overall coordinating steward of Dilaab Foundation in Cebu, asked Cebuanos to stay calm and respect the verdict of the Sandiganbayan.

Diola was one of Cebu’s civic and religious leaders who took to the streets during the Estrada impeachment trial in 2001 and demanded he step down.

This time, however, Diola said he did not want to draw any conclusions about Estrada’s guilt.

“I was involved in anti-Estrada rallies before but looking back, I really would like the rule of law to prevail. I leave it to the court,” he said.

Bernadette Parco and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

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NLE	9 / 19 (QC) 9 / 20 (MKT)
MT	9 / 22 (MKT)
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PN	9 / 22 (MKT)

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Doctor in UP student’s suspected hazing death gives statement to cops

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE DOCTOR WHO REPORTEDly brought suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to a hospital in Quezon City has appeared before QC Police District investigators to personally hand in his sworn statement.

Supt. Franklin Mabanag, QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU) head, however, yesterday refused to divulge the contents of Dr. Francisco Cruz’s statement.

Cruz is the assistant chief of the ophthalmology department at the Veteran’s Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) where he brought Mendez. He went to the CIDU on Thursday evening.

“He told us he did not want the media hounding him for interviews that is why he wanted the meeting to be kept secret from the public,” Mabanag told the INQUIRER.

“We will assess how his affidavit will help our investigation of the victim’s death,” the CIDU chief said, adding the doctor assured them he was not in hiding and was willing to cooperate with the investigation.

Cruz, along with several other persons, took Mendez to the VMMC before dawn on Aug. 27 where the badly beaten 20-year-old senior public administration student was declared dead on arrival by attending physicians.

According to the security guard on duty at the VMMC, the persons who took Mendez to the hospital were in three vehicles—a white Toyota Innova, an Isuzu Trooper and a Nissan Frontier.

Cruz was on the Innova, the guard said.

Beda Fajardo, former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and registered owner of one of the three vehicles, told investigators he would cooperate with them. However, he invoked his right to remain silent, saying his lawyers would coordinate with the police.

Apart from the doctor’s affidavit, the CIDU also obtained statements from four witnesses who surfaced to identify participants in a fraternity initiation rite held at a house in Barangay Pasong Tamo, Pingkian, Quezon City, on Aug. 25 and 26.

The affidavits, investigators said, would strengthen evidence the unit had against several suspects believed responsible for Mendez’s death.

A member of the CIDU, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said more people were willing to give statements to help the investigation.

“They probably mustered the courage to talk because they heard about the witnesses who had given us their statements,” he said.

The source was referring to members of the Sigma Rho fraternity who named participants in an initiation, and two other UP students whose statements corroborated evidence the police already had.

“The statements of the four witnesses are credible. They gave their respective statements separately and the facts in their affidavits jibed,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Mendez family denied rumors some people had approached them in an attempt to settle the case.

“Only those condoling with our loss have approached us. There are no people offering us money to drop the case,” said Pedro Panopio, the victim’s uncle, in Filipino.

Manuel M. Baluyot; 73

LAWYER MANUEL M. BALUYOT, a retired major in the Judge Advocate General’s Office and a member of Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity, died after suffering a heart attack on Aug. 31 in Tagbilaran City. He was 73.

He is survived by his wife Francisca; children George, Lorilee B. Tolentino, Cielo, Kazan and Sama Mercedes; stepchildren; brothers Ricardo, Antonio and Mario, and sister Anita Somoso.

He will be given a military burial today at Victoria Memorial Park in Tagbilaran after the 1 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, also in Tagbilaran.

A law graduate of the University of the Philippines, Baluyot was at one time connected with the National Bureau of Investigation and Cebu Casino Filipino in Cebu City.

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Apec forges deal on climate change; protesters march in Sydney

SYDNEY—ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC Community leaders yesterday said the world needs to "slow, stop and then reverse" greenhouse gas emissions, and adopted modest goals to curb global warming as thousands of demonstrators rallied to demand they do more.

Some experts and activists dismissed as ineffective the program adopted by the presidents of the United States, China, Russia and leaders of other Asia-Pacific economies at their annual summit here—which did not set goals for cutting countries' output of polluting gases.

But it sets a precedent because it applies to all of the group's mix of rich and developing members, and could influence upcoming United Nations negotiations on climate change.

"The world needs to slow, stop and then reverse the growth of global greenhouse gas emissions," the 21 leaders said in the Apec forum's declaration on climate change.

Leaders "charted a new international consensus for the region and the world," summit host Australian Prime Minister John Howard said outside the Sydney Opera House, where the leaders adopted the declaration on the first of two days of talks.

Causes of protests

A dozen blocks away and on the other side of a 3-meter metal fence fortified by concrete barriers and a police cordon, about 3,000 protesters held a colorful, mostly peaceful march and rally. Causes included protests against US President George W. Bush, the Iraq war and ending poverty.

Kerry Nettle, a senator from the Greens party, demanded that the Pacific Rim leaders take "real action" on global warming, drawing cheers. One protester wore a T-shirt that read "Climate Change is not Cool." Another was dressed as a polar bear.

Police, who had warned of potential violence and been given special search powers by the local government, had only minor scuffles with demonstrators, arresting 17 protesters. Two officers were also injured, police said.

Biggest polluters

The Apec climate change program brings together some of the world's powerhouse economies and some of its biggest polluters. As such, it could influence upcoming negotiations before the end of the year in Washington, New York and Indonesia to devise a successor to the UN-backed Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012.

"If you have Apec, especially the largest emitters—the US, China, Russia, Japan—sign up to an agreement like that, it would be hard to ignore at the global level," said Malcolm Cook of Sydney-based think-tank the Lowy Institute.

The program's centerpiece is a goal to reduce "energy intensity"—the amount of energy needed to produce a dollar of gross domestic product—25 percent by 2030. *AP*

GMA, Bush ...

From page A1

leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member-countries that are also members of Apec.

Ms Arroyo tried to hide her disappointment, telling reporters on Friday that a pull-aside meeting with Bush yesterday would not be necessary as they had already covered much ground during their informal chat at the luncheon.

Then it happened

But a pull-aside did happen yesterday. Bush and the President chatted for about 5 to 7 minutes at the leaders' waiting lounge while Australian Prime Minister John Howard talked on the podium, welcoming the 20 other Apec leaders to the two-day summit.

When Bush heard his country being called, he put his notes in his suit pocket and said goodbye to Ms Arroyo.

GMA's message to Bush

An aide of Ms Arroyo, who was able to take a photograph of the President talking with Bush, sent this message to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye: "This was taken at western foyer of the opera house. President Bush taking notes as GMA giving instructions."

An aide memoire, or summary, of the meeting supplied by Palace officials said the two leaders talked about US House Resolution 70, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, sponsored by Rep. Bob Filner, chair of the US House of Representatives veterans affairs committee, and Senate Bill 1315, the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007, authored by Senators Daniel Akaka and Daniel Inouye.

The House bill is a stand-alone measure intended to cover benefits for Filipino veterans who fought with US forces during World War II, while the Senate version is an omnibus bill covering benefits for all veterans of that war, both Americans and Filipinos.

Philippine officials, veterans and Filipino community leaders are lobbying for the two versions to be reconciled into one that would hew closer to the House version which provides higher benefits for Filipino veterans.

In her notes, Ms Arroyo had this message to Bush: "When passed, the law will finally provide pension benefits for Filipino veterans. It is hoped that once the final version of the veterans' bill is sent to the President of the United States, he will sign it into law immediately."

Ms Arroyo said the law will benefit about 18,500 surviving Filipino veterans, of which some 6,000 are living in the United States and around 12,000 are in the Philippines.

Very important issue

"This issue is very important for the Philippines and the Filipino people, as it will finally mean the end of decades-long struggle for Filipino veterans to be recognized for their meaningful contributions to the campaign for democracy during the Second World War," Ms Arroyo said in her aide memoire.

"Through the Filipinos' valor and courage, fighting side by side with American soldiers, the ramparts of freedom were strengthened in Asia," she said.

"Passed into law, this will be a profound gesture reflective of the deep and abiding relations between the Philippines and the United States and the Filipino and American peoples' shared commitment to uphold the values of freedom, democracy and justice for all," the President said.

No mention was made of the Filipino veterans' bill when Ms Arroyo reported about her chat with Bush last Friday. She said Bush had commended the Philippines' antiterror campaign, had asked about how the economy was doing and about her position on the climate change agenda at Apec.

2 meetings

She said Bush offered reforestation aid but that she had requested instead for funds for the construction of roads and an airport in the conflict-affected provinces of Sulu and Basilan.

The President will have separate meetings today, the last day of the Apec meeting, with Chinese President Hu Jintao and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi.

The meeting with Hu was a last-minute inclusion in Ms Arroyo's schedule. It was not known whether the controversial P330-million national broadband network contract awarded to the Chinese-based ZTE Corp. will be discussed.

Ms Arroyo, in an interview with an Australian newspaper before she left for Sydney, said China was an important ally both to the Philippines and the region.

CLASS PHOTO: Australian PM John Howard had kept secret what the Apec leaders were to wear for the traditional final photo-shoot. It turns out it was the host country's national Driza-bone jacket, which keeps one dry as bone. The men look good in them but President Arroyo, writes Reuters, should donate hers to charity. Others in photo are from left, Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's chief executive; Michael Somare, PNG prime minister, and Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore's prime minister. AP

Apec leaders wear 'Driza-bone' coats for 'class photo'

SYDNEY—ASIA-PACIFIC LEADERS dressed for the weather on Saturday, posing for the annual Apec "class photo" in Australian stockman's raincoats on a brisk, overcast early spring day in Sydney.

The final photo-shoot of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum has always provided a flamboyant sidelight to the usually dry affairs, when presidents, prime ministers and even a sultan don the host country's national dress with varying degrees of aplomb.

The outdoorsmen in the group, US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, looked the part in the dark brown, knee-length, rain-proof coats with collars trimmed in various colors (Bush in blue, Putin in green).

Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo should probably donate hers to charity.

The leaders were also given bushmen's hats to wear, but only Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper put one on.

Then came the moment the 200-strong press corps was waiting for: The wave.

Someone shouted for the leaders to wave, and they all dutifully did so—using their right hands, except Bush who waved a bit self-consciously with his left.

Previous "funny shirt photo ops" at Apec summits have included Chilean ponchos, Chinese silk jackets, Indonesian batik shirts and American "bomber" jackets. Last year, they wore Vietnamese *ao dai* silk tunics.

Howard had kept the choice of national dress a secret until the leaders trooped out of the Sydney Opera House after their morning summit in the "Driza-bone" coats (which keep you dry as a bone). *Reuters*

In detention, Erap freed to make history, build legacy

From page A1

an explosive sequel.

Though locked up, Estrada, 70, never lacked for comfort and counsel from family and supporters, political allies, legal and spiritual advisers, or any other permitted visitor who thought nothing of making the two-hour drive from Metro Manila to his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, just to wish him well.

He has apparently made good use of his house arrest, transforming the tightly guarded property in ways that may be reflective of his state of mind.

Celebrating life

Apart from making the improvements needed for his stay, Estrada has built a private museum celebrating the life and defending the honor of the man who dramatically fell from power and was the center of the biggest corruption trial in the country since the Marcos graft cases.

He has also constructed his final resting place—a tomb of brownish marble set in the shade of a solitary *balete* tree and against a wall bearing his carved portrait and a line from one of his speeches as President.

"I don't want neighbors," a smiling Estrada said last Tuesday, displaying the "Erap" wit that became his trademark starting from his days as a swaggering action hero to his shifting fortunes as a politician.

All these efforts to boost his spirit, the grand attempts to redeem his place in history, will be tested in court on judgment day.

Sleepless nights

Turning somber, Estrada admitted to lately "having a hard time going to sleep," over both the court verdict and the failing health of his 102-year-old mother, Mary Ejercito.

"That's the sad part; [they] came at the same time," Estrada told the INQUIRER. "Most of the time I just don't talk because my mind is busy [pondering] what's going to happen—to my mother and to my verdict that is about to come."

"That's why I'm having sleepless nights," he said. "I really cannot express to you how I feel. I feel so depressed. It's my style not to show it. All my friends, they come here, I don't show my depression. Even [in the past]. But now it's different. Sometimes I can only fall asleep at almost 6 in the morning, and get only about two hours of sleep."

(Estrada, the eighth in a brood of 10 and reputedly his mother's favorite child, was allowed by the Sandiganbayan to again visit her today at a hospital in his hometown San Juan, most likely for the last time before Sept. 12.)

The man recalled that after his ouster and subsequent arrest in 2001 and up to 2002, "we tried to keep [my mother] from getting the news on television and the papers, but eventually she learned about it."

"She's always been so worried about me ever since. I've been wanting to have this case finished before she dies, for her to see that I'm free," he said.

Virtual freedom

And yet, Estrada remained virtually free to call the shots from his gilded prison.

Maintaining a formidable party machinery and media arm, and ever surrounded by politicians feeding off his clout, he kept powerful sway over both candidates and voters in the three national elections held since his ouster.

A sought-after endorser during the campaign season, he produced two opposition senators from his family—his wife Luisa and co-accused son Jinggoy—a feat which he considers a "vindication" at the bar of public opinion that no court verdict can nullify.

He never ceased to be the "usual suspect" behind the purported destabilization plots against his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, but was never formally charged as a coup plotter.

The most serious allegation against him was made by the US government in connection with an espionage case against Philippine-born US intelligence agent Leandro Aragoncillo and former Supt. Michael Ray Aquino.

(Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella were tagged by an American lawyer as "conspirators in a plot to get US intelligence materials" through Aragoncillo to be used against Ms Arroyo. Estrada admitted receiving documents but denied wrongdoing, saying "there was nothing classified" in the papers he had received.)

Leeway

Most of Estrada's requests to leave detention for a few hours or days were granted. The court gave him leeway to take short trips for reasons that ran the gamut from medical checkups and family occasions to special public affairs that enabled him to address big crowds and make newspaper headlines.

He flew to Hong Kong for knee surgery, received eye treatment in Muntinlupa, bathed in miraculous waters in Caloocan, attended the wakes of his friends (actors Fernando Poe Jr. and Nida Blanca), spoke before El Shaddai devotees at the Quirino Grandstand.

On record, Estrada has been detained in five different places since his arrest on April 25, 2001.

He (and Jinggoy) first spent three nights in Camp Crame, after being taken by police from his residence in Greenhills, San Juan.

On April 28, he was transferred to the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

He was then airlifted to Fort Sto. Domingo, a police training camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, at the onset of the May 1 "Edsa Tres" riots, when thousands of supporters enraged by his arrest marched from the Edsa Shrine to lay siege on Malacañang but were repulsed by police in a bloody confrontation just outside the Palace gates.

He was brought back to the VMMC on May 12 and remained there up to Oct. 16, 2003, after which he was moved to Camp Capinpin, base of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, in Tanay.

Finally, on March 5, 2004, the court let him literally cross the highway from the camp and settle in the spacious environs of his rest house, nestled in a 15-hectare property bought when he was still in show biz and developed as a site for shooting his movies.

Legacy

In Tanay, like any other accomplished retiree, he is engaged in relaxing backyard activities—and more.

He tends a vegetable garden and rice paddies, raises *tilapia*, and keeps an ever-growing menagerie of pigs, ducks, chickens, swans, horses and ostriches.

He had an old chapel renovated, but he also designed a "Maranao Village," an enclave where he entertains guests in a Moro-inspired pavilion.

But for his biggest projects while in detention, Estrada embarked on major repair—not on some structure, but on his legacy and how history might judge him in the end.

"In case anything happened to me, this museum will vindicate me," he said, referring to the "Library and Archives" that he had built on the highest point of his landscaped property.

About half of the displays retrace his film career spanning nearly three decades and 166 movies, "where 95 percent of the time, I played the role of the poor and marginalized" and in the process "learned things [about the poor] which no one would learn in Harvard."

These include Erap mannequins depicting his more famous roles (like the righteous urban toughie Asiong Salonga), movie posters and still photos, and acting awards.

Off-screen mementos

The other half of the museum deals with his more riveting triumph and tragedy off-screen.

Mementos from his short-lived presidency include the three different *barong* he wore on his inauguration day, and the actual jeepney used for his "Jeep ni Erap" presidential campaign motorcades.

There is abundant material from his earlier terms as mayor of San Juan, senator, and Vice President cum anticrime czar.

There is also a 50-seat mini-theater where the Erap saga is told in a hour-long documentary.

The library proper contains more presidential paraphernalia, gifts and souvenirs from his foreign trips, and curiosities like a sword from Sultan Bolkiah of Brunei and a boxing glove signed by ring champion Manny Paquiao, "when he was still not that popular."

Overhead, circling the stately room, hang portraits of past Philippine Presidents. But unless Estrada points it out, a visitor is likely to miss the point: There is no picture of Ms Arroyo.

"Illegitimate, *eh*," he quipped, adding that in place of her portrait he would soon put up that of Poe, his best buddy, who lost to Ms Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election that was later tainted by the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

And then there's a portion—a narrow passage, actually—called "The Dark Place of Democracy," depicting the "Edsa Dos" uprising from the bitter point of view of the unseated 13th President.

Everything here is pitch dark except for the back-lit, poster-size reproduction of that historic mug shot of Estrada that was taken at Camp Crame on the day he was arrested, as well as wall-mounted "clippings" from foreign media commentaries that cast doubt on whether the rule of law, and not mob rule, had marked his downfall.

Being prepared

Just outside the museum is Estrada's future grave, at the corner of a courtyard lined with benches and which, on a good day, draws a gentle breeze from the Sierra Madre.

"I just want to be prepared. At least I know where people would come to visit me," he said.

Already, Estrada said, this had been his favorite spot for prayer and contemplation. Next to the marble tomb and at the foot of the balete tree is a rock on which he would sit as early as 6 a.m. and just let time pass.

He talked about transformation: "In the first three years [since my ouster], there was so much hate inside me over what happened. After that I recovered because I've been praying. I've learned to tell myself: Just forget both the good things you've done to others and the wrong things done to you.

"So my feeling became lighter. *Di ko na pinag-iisipan ang gantihan* (I'm no longer thinking of revenge), whatever. I have forgiven all of them."

Anticlimactic? Come Sept. 12, barring hitches, the Erap epic movie on the Filipino mind may finally have a fitting ending.

Or maybe not.

Hi-tech RP passports to roll out this month

BEGINNING SEPT. 17, THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs will be accepting applications for the new machine readable passports (MRP) from first-time applicants, those renewing their old passports, overseas Filipino workers—and senior citizens.

Under the new system, all applicants have to personally appear, sign and affix their thumbprints to their application forms before a consular officer at the DFA.

They are now required to submit three passport-size photographs taken against a royal blue background, instead of the usual white background. The photograph, signature and thumbprints of the applicant will be stored in the passport database.

An MRP is a passport where the data on the identity page is encoded in optical character recognition format. Many countries began to issue MRPs in the 1980s although the roll-out of the technology to smaller overseas missions was slow in many instances.

Member-countries of the International Civil Aviation Organization have until September 2010 to fully comply with the MRP.

Under the system, a machine-generated application form is printed with the personal details of the applicant. The signature of the applicant on the form indicates that he had read and verified the contents thereof.

The passport fee remains at P500 for regular processing and P750 for express processing.

Because of the shift to the new system and the expected surge in the number of applicants, the latter are advised to apply for or renew their passports way ahead of their expected date of travel.

Applicants who apply for regular processing can get their passports after 14 working days while those who apply for expedited processing can get their passports after seven working days. Once the flow has normalized, the processing time will be reduced accordingly, the DFA said.

Efforts also are underway to reduce the application procedure from three steps to two steps—processing and payment.

Other requirements remain the same. For first-time passport applicants, they must submit their NSO birth certificates and documents of identity. For those renewing their passports, they must bring their old passport for cancellation.

Applicants in the provinces may apply for the MRP at the DFA regional consular offices starting October.

Green or manually encripted passports shall remain valid until their expiry date.

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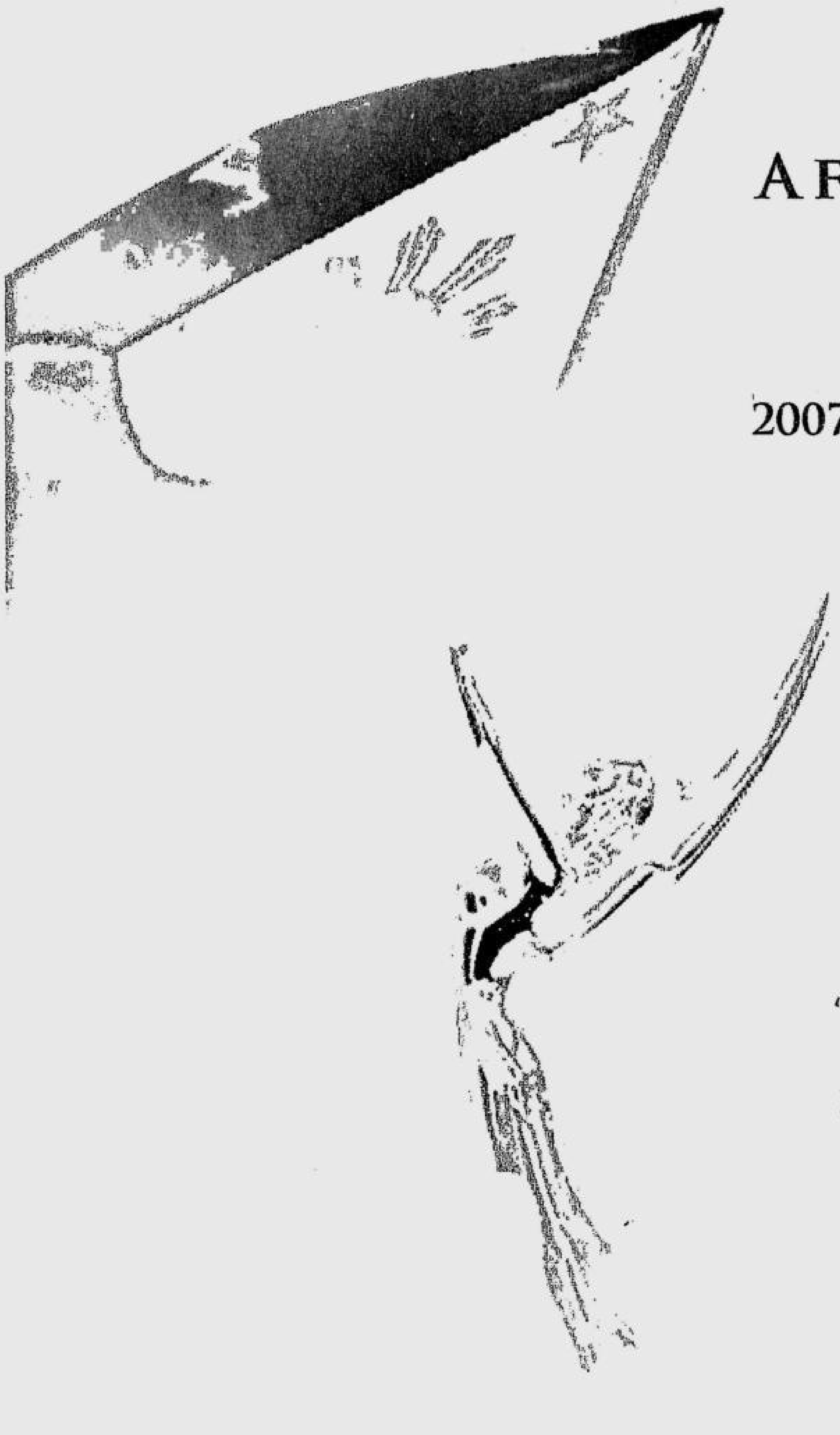
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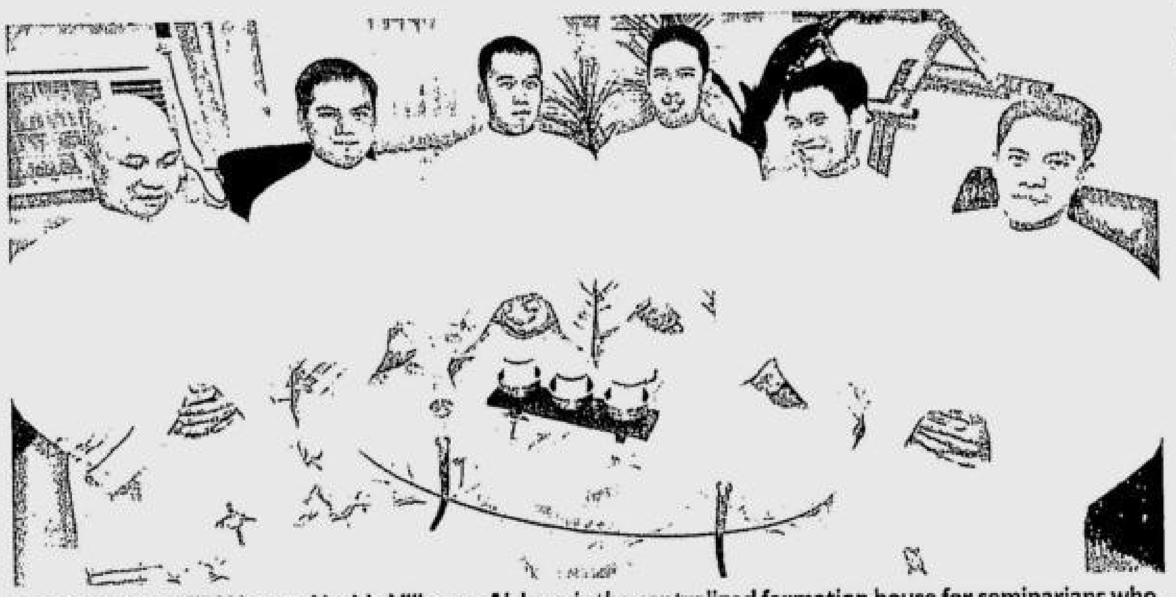
From page A1



HOUSE OF JOSEPH housed inside Villamor Airbase is the centralized formation house for seminarians who work to keep the men and women of the AFP on the side of God. Some of the 14 seminarians now in training are from left, Eric Mark Opaon, Vamester Arandia, Teddy David, Joey Era and Ronnie Micaller. JESS YUSON

Once the quarters for officers of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), the seminary opened in December 2006 as the centralized formation house for seminarians raring to serve as chaplains for the nation's soldiers, policemen, firefighters, jail guards and members of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Centralized formation house

"In this formation house, we prepare them (seminarians); we have a program they have to learn. They are already exposed to the different branches of service [of the Armed Forces] so that they will be aware of the way of life of a chaplain," says Fr. Art Orense, seminary rector.

"That's why in this case, I think it is very instrumental to have one formation house, to bring them together in one community because before they were scattered," says Orense, the third priest ordained in the military diocese in 1991.

The Domus Josephi seminary is the lone institution in charge of the pastoral formation of the Military Ordinariate of the Philippines, a diocese for the Armed Forces.

Purification of motives

The Domus Josephi, which is Latin for "House of Joseph" is where future chaplains undergo "purification of motives" for choosing the vocation. This journey can take from 10 to 12 years before they may be deemed worthy to stand at the altar in front of a congregation to say Mass or administer the sacraments.

"We learn the Bible, we learn the word of God, so when we get out of this house, we preach the gospel to the men and women in uniform," Orense says.

The ordinariate had been waiting for such a formation house since it was established in 1986, the year the Holy See elevated the world's military vicariates to diocese level. (The Philippines' military vicariate was created via a sacred decree in December 1950.)

An organization of military wives and private individuals help fund the daily needs of the formation house, according to Orense.

"Since 1986, we've been praying for a formation house. Last year we talked to the previous Air Force commanding general, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, if we could utilize this as the formation house. We are very grateful to the PAF family for giving us this," says Fr. Pius Alejo, the PAF's acting chief chaplain.

It's always Christmas here

The Domus Josephi seminary was so named by the military ordinary, Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak, after Joseph the Carpenter, the man who raised Jesus Christ as his own son.

"That's why here it's always Christmas," says Orense, pointing to a pot of poinsettias adorning the seminary's quaint adoration chapel.

"[We are celebrating] the life of Jesus, and because Joseph took care of him, so we will also take care of the word of God," he says.

Domus Josephi now stands as the lone institution that prepares seminarians to take on the life of a chaplain, one that entails saying Mass near the battlefront, sleeping in hammocks in a military base up the mountain, and attending to grieving families of fallen soldiers.

"Whether or not there is conflict, we need chaplains to take care of the spiritual needs of the personnel and their families. So in the training of military personnel, we need to instill in them religious values and moral values, to be god-fearing and to help them be good soldiers," says Fr. Romy Convocar, a former Navy chaplain and now a formator at the seminary.

As priests under the military ordinariate, chaplains acquire an officer's rank in the military upon ordination should they choose to seek commissionship, according to Alejo. Thus, military priests also wear the service uniform besides holy vestments, bearing the cross as their rank insignia.

Noncombatants

Chaplains, however, are strictly noncombatants, says Convocar, protected under international law from the violence of battle despite their membership in the military.

Currently, the Philippines has 60 Roman Catholic chaplains assigned to different camps around the country along with ministers of other religions dispatched for the same mission.

"Where we are needed, we respond. Whatever is the situation, whether in conflict or peace time, a priest, a chaplain will always be willing to move. We give them (soldiers) spiritual guidance and counseling so once they deploy, they are prepared spiritually and morally," says Alejo, who has the rank of Air Force captain.

Domus Josephi is now home to 14 seminarians, including three "freshmen" who started the journey to chaplainship in May after months of tedious screening. They were picked from 50 applicants following a series of written tests and interviews.

Eleven others had, meanwhile, received earlier training in different seminaries offering chaplainship training for would-be priests, and then brought together in the formation house as soon as it opened.

Much more fun

"I am used to this kind of community because I had earlier attended a seminary ... [But] I consider this new because the military diocese has long been here, but this is the first time that we got together," says Alferdo Era, a 23-year-old Zamboanga City native.

"Before, seminarians of the military ordinariate would see each other once a year during our annual retreat. Then we go to different camps for exposure. Afterward, we go back to our respective seminaries. Now, it's much more fun," Era says.

The seminarians are all philosophy graduates who are in various levels of training. The entire program is based on four basic aspects of formation.

4 basic aspects

"First, we have what we call human formation. That involves personal and community life. The other one is academic (theology studies), then the spiritual formation which we have here, then pastoral formation, which we do through exposure in military camps," says Convocar, Domus Josephi's spiritual director and procurator.

Within this four-pronged course, two seminarians are in entry-level residency, a six-month program that entails staying in different military camps for exposure to the soldier's way of life and familiarization with a chaplain's work.

Another two are under a six-month program for spiritual pastoral formation and a 101 class on the Philippine military ordinariate.

Six seminarians, who had earlier trained in different seminaries, are separately finishing the theology course: Four at the Don Bosco Center of Studies in Parañaque City, one in a seminary in Jaro, Iloilo, and another in Tagaytay City.

Two are in pre-deaconal training while two are in regency, a guided, year-long, out-of-seminary experience where seminarians are given the chance to again taste the outside life and contemplate on whether they are indeed destined for a chaplain's life.

One thing in common

Their backgrounds may be varied and their personalities different, but Domus Josephi's residents have one thing in common. In their sought vocation, they have found a balance between the contradicting dreams of serving the Armed Forces and serving the Catholic Church.

As Era puts it: "It's a perfect combination: I [want] to become a priest and I also want to be part of the military. It's a balance, it's a meeting point of my interests."

Once a corps commander in his high school, 27-year-old Teddy David thought he would join the military after a hearty training in the reserved officers' corps throughout school. That was until he heard heaven calling.

Fusion of dreams

"My first love was to become a soldier. That's why I trained in CAT (Citizens Army Training) and took up advanced training course in ROTC (Reserved Officers' Training Course) ... After that—I don't know—but I [felt] I was called by God for this vocation. And then I entered the seminary," says the Bicol native, who entered his first seminary in 1998.

Jamester Arandia of Batangas found it hard to choose between joining the Armed Forces and training to become a military chaplain. At the crossroad, it was God who decided for him.

"I took the entrance exam at the PMA (Philippine Military Academy). I failed. I took that as God's clear sign that I should pursue my dream of becoming a military chaplain. That was the first time I felt I was called by God to this vocation," says Arandia, who was an altar boy in his teenage years.

It was his mother's devotion to the Catholic faith that led Joey Silvio, 26, to the seminary. He dreamt of becoming a soldier as a young boy, but his interest was swayed to the Church's way because of his frequent visits to his local parish with his mother, Clarita.

Mysterious ways

It took him years to decide whether or not to pursue the chaplain's vocation. He first took a break from formation and worked in Manila while he "prayed hard for discernment." In 2006, his prayers were answered.

"I found that I was missing life in the seminary where I experienced love from people I met. So I went back and learned about the military diocese. I realized I can be a soldier and a priest at the same time," Silvio says.

"It's like hitting two birds with one stone. I serve the church and ... at the same time, I get to serve the country. God really moves in mysterious ways," he says.

Siquijor-born Eric Mark Opaon, 23, "had a shift in thought" from his earlier desire to become a soldier when he was attracted to the white vestments of his neighborhood priest whenever he attended Mass.

The risks

The risks that come with a chaplain's life do not faze him.

"For me, danger is everywhere. You only have to entrust your whole self to God," Opaon says.

Besides formal formation, the experience of living together in the seminary has taught them a lot. They run the household without any outside help, splitting errands and sharing chores day by day.

The demands of a holistic formation have only served to deepen the seminarians' devotion to their vocation.

And while they leave it up to God to tell them to stay or to show them the door, they are very much at home inside Domus Josephi.

"There's a saying "if you never settle, you will never build." Now, I'm pretty sure that I'm really into this vocation. Yet the circumstances, we don't have a hold on that. And also, we don't know God's plan for us. But I am depending my vocation on God," Era says.

No question

"As early as now, I think my commitment is 90 percent. The remaining 10 percent, of course, is the what ifs, like I do not know for sure if [one day] I'll wake up and realize that this is not my calling. So I 'am still open to that possibility that, maybe, God does not really want me to become a priest," Opaon says.

For Arandia, there is no question.

"I can say that I am highly committed to this. I would exchange my life for this because God has given me the task of sharing goodness with our soldiers," he says.

GMA orders: Use 'komiks' to save the environment

From page A1

ly visited the NCCA for the media launch of five new titles by komiks king Carlo J. Caparas.

"(Caparas' wife) Donna Villa, who was standing next to me when the President issued her directive, was shocked just like me. She immediately relayed GMA's message to Direk Carlo. It was an instant commitment. Earthsavers Movement and the Komiks Institute later joined us. In less than a week—actually five days—we were able to wrap up work on what is now the *Kalasag* komiks project," recalled Alvarez.

Kalasag is "envisioned by the President to help the government's information drive on the water crisis, as well as climate change, environmental protection, energy conservation and the peace process," said Alvarez, who is also presidential adviser on culture.

"Naming the komiks 'Kalasag' was the idea of komiks novelist, Commissioner Joe Lad Santos of the Komisyon ng Wikang Pilipino. He is also the head of the Komiks Institute. Kalasag means shield or armor in battle," she added.

Personal contribution

The first issue of Kalasag features three Caparas stories: The cover piece "Ulan, Ulan," "Sa Akin ang Gubat, Sa Iyo ang Dagat" and "Batas ng Dugo." It includes Santos' "Ang Tubig ay Buhay" and Ofelia Concepcion's "Ang Huling Bulate sa Lupa."

Kalasag illustrators include industry heavyweights Karl Comendador, Nestor Malgapo, Marvin Romero and Arnel Avetria.

In a phone interview, Caparas expressed pride in writing for Kalasag: "That's my personal contribution to the government's environmental conservation measures, as well as the worldwide campaign to avert the calamitous climate change."

Caparas had the peace process in mind when he wrote "Batas ng Dugo," a short story. "[It is] the tale of two students, one Christian and the other Muslim. One later became a soldier and the other a rebel," he said.

"The story's message? There are no winners in a military conflict. *Kapwa sugatan ang bawat panig* (Both sides are wounded)," said Caparas, who has written about 800 komiks novels in a span of 30 years.

Water stories

Kalasag also carries the Earthsavers Movement contributions "Climate Change Solutions: What can you do right now?" and the group's commandments on the proper use of water resources.

Cecile Alvarez's husband, presidential adviser on agrarian reform and ex-Sen. Heherson Alvarez, is Earthsavers Movement founding chair.

The NCCA head said publishing Kalasag was "relatively cheap."

"*Parang pakiusap lang sa mga kaibigan* (It's like asking a favor from friends). Actually, we shared resources," she said.

On orders of the President, copies of Kalasag are being distributed by the National Disaster Coordinating Council, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Education and the NCCA.

According to Alvarez, they are seriously considering "a follow-up issue to Kalasag."

"We plan to integrate the millennium development goals and feature the country's heroes," she said.

Komiks congress

The NCCA is instrumental in reviving the moribund komiks industry. The agency sponsored several activities that Caparas had proposed, like the First Komiks Congress and the Komiks Caravan where Caparas, a film director and his wife Villa, a movie producer, embarked on a series of seminars for budding writers and artists in various parts of the country.

Next Tuesday, the NCCA is holding the second Komiks Congress at its Intramuros headquarters in Manila.

Two months ago, the President joined Caparas, Villa and Alvarez during the media launch of five new titles: Tagalog Komiks, Gwapo Komiks, Super Funny Komiks, Pilipino Klasiks and OFW Super Stories.

They are set to hit the streets late next week. Each title costs P10 per issue.

Sterling Paper Products, maker of notebooks, is publishing the comic books.

Pilipino klasiks

The first issue of Pilipino Klasiks, which carries the Caparas novel "Kroko, Takas sa Zoo," has the most impressive artwork. Its cover shows a reptile character drawn by Hal Santiago, one of the country's top illustrators.

Another Caparas story, "Andres de Saya, Chairman ng mga Takusa (which is short for *takot sa asawa* or afraid of his wife)," is featured in OFW Super Stories.

When interviewed, Caparas asserted that the local komiks trade is "once again alive and well."

Reviving what he once described as a "vanishing culture" is a "work in progress," he said.

"Reviving komiks is my mission," Caparas said.

Giving something back

He earlier told the INQUIRER he wanted "to give something back to society. My legacy as a komiks novelist would be meaningless if I did not impart to this generation the knowledge and wisdom of my experience."

From his first short story "Akong Nagmamahal Sa Iyo," which appeared in the Pablo S Gomez publications in 1967 the factory hand cum security guard churned out one hit nove after another.

Among his very popula komiks novels were "Citadel," "Till Death Do Us Part," "Kis My Feet," "The Hero," "Angel Markado," "Totoy Bato," "An Panday," "Kung Tawagin Siya" Bathala," "Somewhere," "Pieta," "Mong," "Harimanok, "Andres de Saya," "Juan Torna do" and "Bakekang."

"Bakekang" ran for severa years and was adapted for th silver screen with Nora Aunor i the title role. Just recently, GM 7 turned it into a top-rating t lenovela.

Caparas' diario novela, "T Have and To Hold," is being s rialized in the INQUIRER.

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Epileptics seize the moments to live normally

From page A1

long-held misconceptions about it.

Rose Marie Espina of Miag-ao, 40 km from Iloilo City, started having seizures in 1978—episodes when her eyeballs would roll and her limbs became rigid. She was then 26.

The seizures held no time or place sacred. She had them even in church, sending other churchgoers scurrying away, afraid of contagion or plain embarrassed for her.

A medical technology graduate and the eldest of four sisters, Rose married at 24, settled in Cebu and had a son at 25.

But far from enjoying peaceful domesticity, Rose was a battered wife. She left her husband when she was 26.

Her mother came to collect her and her six-month-old son, and they resettled in the family home.

Priests, quack doctors

Rose's first seizures occurred a few months after her separation from her husband. They became frequent, occurring twice a week.

With no neurologist in her town, Rose was misdiagnosed several times over. She was exorcised by priests, treated by quack doctors—the works.

In 1983, her "mysterious" condition was diagnosed as epilepsy by Dr. Elma S. Maranon, a neurologist.

But the identification of her condition proved to be little consolation for Rose. Much damage had been done.

"My father disowned me and told me that I had brought shame to the family name," Rose told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Her father and sisters did not want to be identified with her. Worse, she was forced to stay away from her son, with her family fearing that she would strangle him during a seizure.

Maranon referred Rose to a psychiatrist, Dr. Henrietta Cabado, to help her regain her self-esteem.

Rose was also appointed sanitation inspector at the Department of Health—a job that gave her "the therapy of diverting my attention from a family that never supported me emotionally."

But during that time, too, her seizures became more frequent. She assumed that fatigue was causing it.

'Don't give up'

With her meager salary, Rose was forced to cut back on her antiepilepsy medication. Her parents refused to give her financial help, reasoning that she was, after all, employed.

Despondent, she was wracked by thoughts of ending her life.

In 1990, Rose became a born-again Christian.

She said her parents, devout Catholics who had earlier "adopted" seven seminarians and paid their tuition, were infuriated. They demanded that she leave the house and never return.

One night after regaining consciousness from a seizure, Rose was approached by her son, by then 10 years old. He whispered to her: "Please don't give up. I love you and we only have each other. Please don't leave me alone."

That was all she needed to hear. With fresh hope, she complied with her neurologist's treatment recommendations, and later organized a support group for PWEs and represented the Philippines in an Asean conference on epilepsy.

She also made peace with her repentant ex-husband.

Her epilepsy triggers having been identified, Rose, now 57, has been seizure-free for four years now. She still works as a sanitation inspector at the DOH.

She has been bypassed a number of times in the promotion list because of her condition—despite an exemplary record—but she shows no bitterness.

Rose lives with her 34-year-old son (who is as loving as ever, she said), his wife, and the family's bundle of joy—a granddaughter.

Out for 20 minutes

Jeannie Desiree Dumlao-Khonghun developed epilepsy at 21 in her third year of a tourism course at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Before then, she was a well-traveled grade school student with the UP Cherubim and Seraphim choir, and a delegate to the 18th Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program. She was also an active officer of the Young Women's Christian Association of Quezon City and the National YWCA.

In February 1992, Jeannie blanked out for 20 minutes while talking with her mom.

She was diagnosed with complex partial seizures, and, like Rose, was told that her condition was idiopathic (of unknown causes).

Jeannie bought books and magazines to learn about her condition.

She went back to school after taking a semester off, and gathered emotional support from family and friends (her sisters offered to take turns riding to UP with her).

And instead of hiding the condition from her classmates, Jeannie made it a learning opportunity for them. She taught them her symptoms—"I stare blankly, fidget, or do automatic movements"—to make sure she would not hurt herself during seizures.

Told to quit

Because of the effect of stress and short memory loss on her condition, she was not allowed to take more than 10 units per semester. Nevertheless, she graduated, albeit later than her batch mates.

Jeannie got a job in an art museum, but she did not disclose that she had epilepsy. She reasoned that her condition was manageable.

On her first day of work, she told her colleagues what to do in case she had a seizure. This personal "advisory" reached the museum's assistant human resources head, and she was told to quit.

Jeannie decided to take another course at UP—and completed it. Her bachelor's degree in music (major in choral conducting) at the UP College of Music made it possible for her to become a voice and piano teacher.

She met her husband, Gerard, when she joined a church choir. They have been married for four years now and have a 2-year-old son named Ethan.

Jeannie is the current president of Epilepsy Awareness and Advocacy Inc., which is working to, among other things, cut the costs of epilepsy medicines, erase the stigma from PWEs, and stop discrimination at work.

Treatment updates

Dr. Ana Marie A. Javelosa, neurologist and chair of the organizing committee of the 6th National Epilepsy Awareness Week, updated the INQUIRER on the treatment options.

For intractable or uncontrolled epilepsy, surgery followed by medication is recommended, she said.

The cure for epilepsy depends on its underlying causes, or triggers, which vary from a tumor, or a stroke, to vascular malformation, and even genetics.

According to Javelosa, most treatments target the seizures, and only through faithful compliance with medication can epilepsy be fully controlled.

"There are many antiepileptic drugs that cover a wide range of seizure types, and these have less side effects and are better tolerated [by the body]," she said.

Not hopeless

No surgical procedure gives a 100-percent guarantee of success. Nevertheless, said Javelosa, "surgery will lessen the need for medications and the severity of the attacks by removing the 'irritative focus' in the brain."

Surgery is particularly helpful for patients with uncontrollable seizures despite multiple medications, she said.

But hopelessness should not be among the symptoms of this condition.

As Rose often prays—by herself or with the group—"Thank you Lord. I am a person with epilepsy. Now you can use me more effectively."

DUMLAO

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 9, 2007
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Wisdom 9:13-18**

Who can know God's counsel?

Indeed, who can know the intentions of God? Who can discern the plan of the Lord?

For human reasoning is timid, our notions misleading; a perishable body is a burden for the soul and our tent of clay weighs down the active mind.

We are barely able to know about the things of earth and it is a struggle to understand what is close to us; who then may hope to understand heavenly things?

Who has ever known your will unless you first gave him Wisdom and sent down your holy spirit to him? In this way you directed the human race on the right path; they learned what pleases you and were saved by Wisdom.

2nd Reading: **Philemon 9-10, 12-17**

Receive him as a beloved brother.

Yet I prefer to request you in love. The one talking is Paul, the old man, now prisoner for Christ. And my request is on behalf of Onesimus, whose father I have become while I was in prison.

In returning him to you, I am sending you my own heart. I would have liked to keep him at my side, to serve me on your behalf while I am in prison for the Gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your agreement, nor impose a good deed upon you without your free consent.

Perhaps Onesimus has been parted from you for a while so that you may have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but better than a slave. For he is a very dear brother to me, and he will be even dearer to you. And so, because of our friendship, receive him as if he were I myself.

Gospel: **Luke 14:25-33**

Cost of discipleship.

One day, when large crowds were walking along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "If you come to me, without being ready to give up your love for your father and mother, your spouse and children, your brothers and sisters, and indeed yourself, you cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not follow me carrying his own cross cannot be my disciple.

"Do you build a house without first sitting down to count the cost to see whether you have enough to complete it? Otherwise, if you have laid the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone will make fun of you: 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

"And when a king wages war against another king, does he go to fight without first sitting down to consider whether his 10 thousand can stand against the 20 thousand of his opponent? And if not, while the other is still a long way off he sends messengers for peace talks. In the same way, none of you may become my disciple if he doesn't give up everything he has."

Commentary

Who knows God's wisdom and counsel? Mortals just guess and plan. They are timid and unsure but God gives his wisdom and sends his Spirit to help make straight the paths of all on earth. Paul writes to Philemon about his runaway slave, whom Paul calls 'my heart'. Paul sends the slave back to Philemon. The slave is now a believer, a member of the Body of Christ, a brother, a beloved. This is the wisdom of God that breaks the hold of slavery, of servitude for all who call themselves Christians, followers of Christ. Paul is adept at getting Philemon to look at his slave as a new person in Christ and he must come to know him not as a slave, but as a man and in the Lord. It is appalling that even with all the Words of Jesus and writings such as this that slavery was practiced and never questioned by Christians for nearly two centuries after the Incarnation and still is practiced in so many parts of the world today.

Jesus calls us to come after him, to leave behind family and loved ones, even ourselves (to put on Christ and belong to the sisters, brothers, fathers, and mothers that hear the Word and obey). We are called to take up our cross—the burden of the gospel and what is laid on us as suffering because we preach and practice the gospel in the world. Have we considered what we have been baptized into—the lifelong following of Jesus to the cross and the building of a kingdom at odds with the world, because ours is built of love, justice, forgiveness, mercy, non-violence, and peace?

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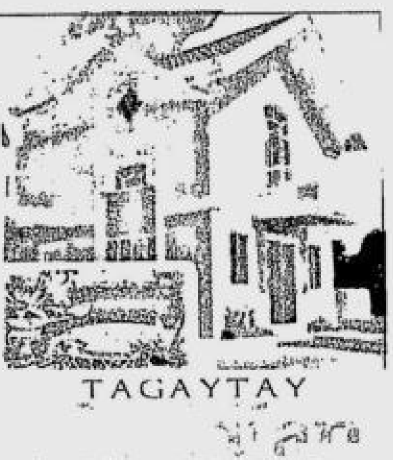

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In death, top of PMA class '06 is icon to talented, deserving poor

From page A1

by his fiancee Margaret Encarnacion, who had quit her job as a financial analyst of a beverage company to enroll in a nursing course.

The decision to take up nursing was "basically" for Toledo, "so I would learn how to care for him," Encarnacion told the INQUIRER.

"Every time I asked him if he could still bear it, he always said yes. He never gave up, but his body did," she said.

Icon for aspirants

The other story no one talks about is how Toledo has become an icon for poor but talented students aspiring for a shot at the PMA.

According to Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, the PMA superintendent, many of the cadets entering the academy are from low middle-income to very low-income families who cannot afford a college education on their own after graduating from the public schools.

This trend was discovered in 2004 when Maligalig and his predecessor, Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing Jr., put together a PMA modernization "road map" that will expire in 2015.

"Toledo was a valedictorian, and to us in the academy and the PMA Corps of Cadets, he represents many of our young men and women who grew up from humble beginnings," Maligalig said, adding:

"Ariel has not died in vain. He is an inspiration to the PMA and for the younger generation to follow his example ... to pursue their dreams of wearing the uniform [despite their economic situation]."

No longer elitist

According to Maligalig, the attention given to Toledo's battle against cancer allowed people to also realize that the PMA has long since dropped its image as an elitist institution because of its "very *masa* (grass roots-based)" cadet population.

"We do attract everybody, [as proven by] those who qualified in the past three years," as well as the more than 800 applicants who passed last week's entrance examinations, Maligalig said.

"Whether you are the son of a general or the son of a farmer, you will receive the same food, the same instructions, the same clothes," he said.

10th of 12 kids

Toledo's struggle is well documented.

He was the 10th of 12 children born to Prudencio and Pilar Toledo. His father was a member of the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

One of Toledo's most traumatic experiences was the murder of his father and a brother while he was in grade school.

Toledo worked hard, earning top credits in grade school and high school and was enrolled in a geodetic engineering course at the University of Northern Philippines in Vigan City when he joined the PMA in 2002.

He referred to his family's poverty in his valedictory speech in 2006, stressing that he would have "chosen to wallow in self-pity and live a mediocre life, but that's not [where my] will [takes me]."

According to a brother, Domingo, one of their sisters, Zita Torres, worked to finance Toledo's schooling, anticipating that the young man would shoulder the school requirements of her three children as soon as he received his commission.

Domingo said he and the rest of the siblings were awaiting the arrival of the other sisters, Beatriz and Ely, both working in Canada, so the family could schedule Toledo's burial.

2nd Lt. Abraham Pasion, Toledo's "mistah" (classmate) at the PMA Mandirigmang Dangal ng Lahi (Mandala) Class of 2006, accompanied the officer's flag-draped casket to the family home in Barangay Pussuac.

The casket was placed in a room filled with Toledo's photographs at the PMA, as well as news clippings about his graduation and his illness.

'Sayang'

"*Sayang talaga* (What a waste). He had inspired many of our youth to follow his footsteps," Mayor Floro Tadena said.

Toledo was last year's "Arangkada" (Advance) awardee, the highest award Santo Domingo gives to its outstanding citizens.

PMA cadets were informed of Toledo's death at the PMA mess hall in Baguio City on Thursday morning, hours after Maligalig received the news from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center.

Maligalig said the cadets' morale had already been low because of the deaths of four of Toledo's mistahs in the ongoing military offensive in Mindanao and a battle in Abra with communist rebels.

It was Maligalig who officially informed officials of Mandala Class about Toledo's death.

The 324-member class had been shouldering part of Toledo's hospital expenses, with each member donating part of his or her regular salary as junior officers.

Provincial schools better

One theory that finds resonance in the PMA is that provincial high schools are not as bad as they have been made to appear by the media.

Maligalig said the speed with which technology changed urban lifestyles would make provincial high schools feel old compared to urban schools equipped with satellite-fed Internet service and cellular phones.

But the urban environment also offers students more distractions that could account for their accomplishments in the PMA, he said.

"The better high schools now come from the provinces. I attribute this to the urban environment. Barrios don't have [shopping] malls [and] teenagers can go climb mountains or wade through a creek to read a book. But a [student in the urban area] can have all the movies to see [and enough friends to chat with through their] cell phones," Maligalig said.

He added that going by this theory, more Ariel Toledos were waiting in the wings to make their own valedictory addresses.

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME: In Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur, Margaret Encarnacion continues to look after her lost love, Lt. Ariel Toledo (at right), the valedictorian of PMA Class 2006. Already working as a fiscal analyst, she took up nursing the better to care for her ailing boyfriend. LEONCIO BALBIN JR./NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

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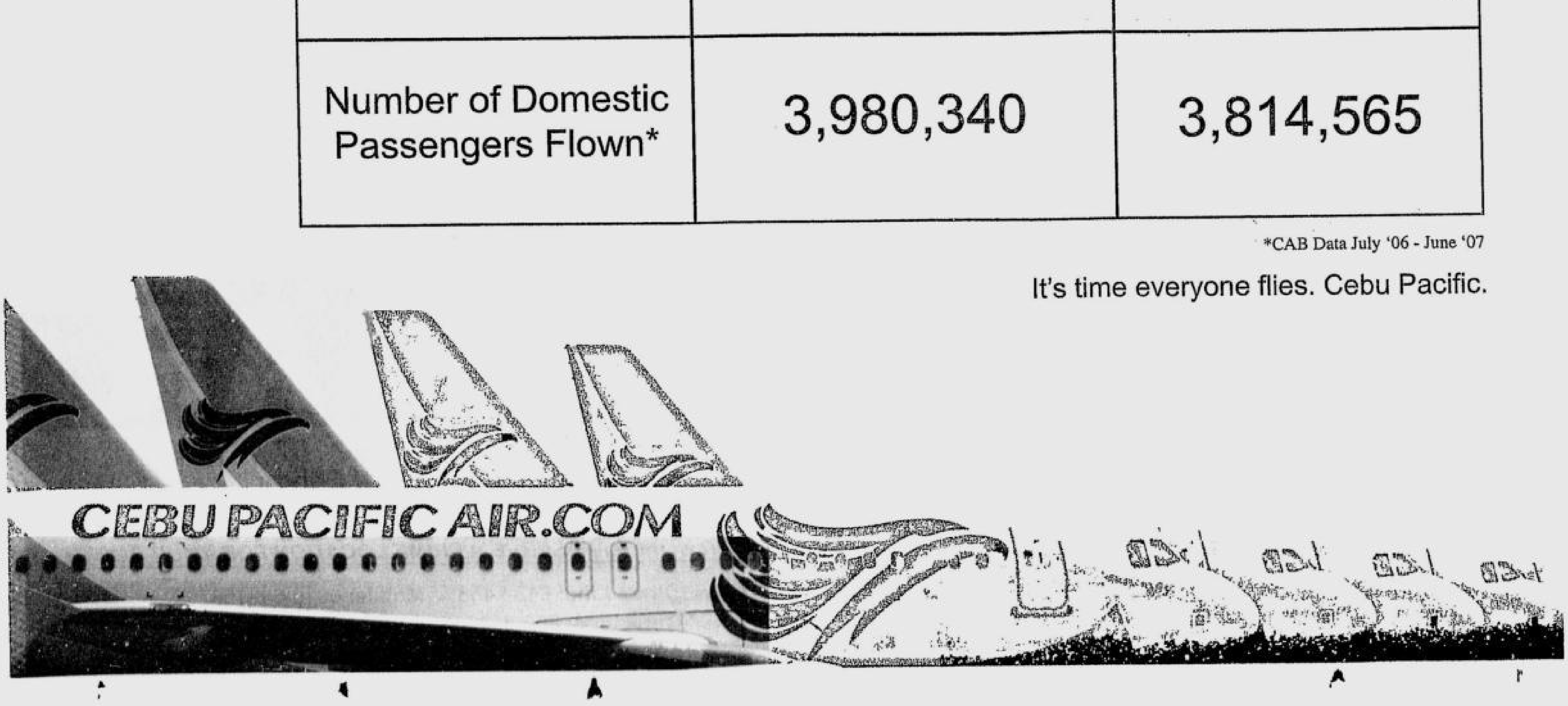

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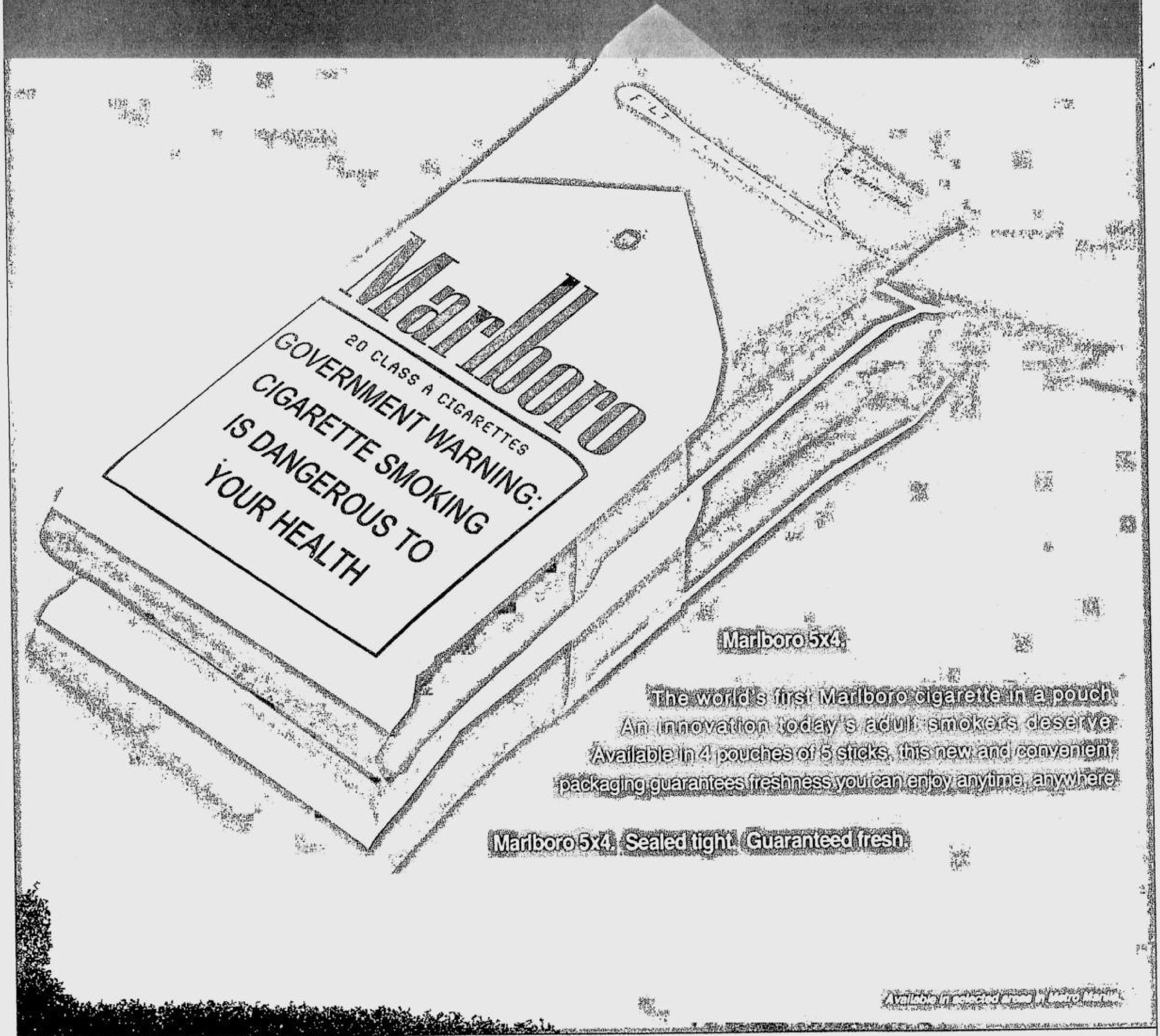
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Web gets wider

Editorial

TWO OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE, IF NOT INTIMIdating, lawyers in the Senate took turns trying to beat Vidal Doble's credibility (arguably shaky at best, to start with) to a pulp. Sen. Joker Arroyo tried to point out the contradictions between Doble's past testimony and the version he gave the Senate. Arroyo seemed eager to spotlight Doble's having had a civilian lawyer, which would suggest that the testimony was beyond military pressure—until Doble pointed out that his civilian lawyer was provided by the Philippine National Police.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile focused on Doble's habeas corpus petition filed with the Court of Appeals, a document prepared by opposition-affiliated lawyers. Doble, however, revealed that he had been reminded, before he testified, that the long and short of whatever he said was that he remained under the authority of his unit, the Intelligence Service of the AFP. So, Doble said, with that pointed reminder still ringing in his ears, he lied.

Instead of demolishing Doble's credibility, Arroyo and Enrile simply clarified the tremendous pressure—Doble himself bluntly said it was duress—that tainted not his latest, but his previous, testimony.

Arroyo and Enrile—as unlikely a pair of comrades-in-interest we would ever hope to find, but politics indeed makes for strange bedfellows—had to retreat with obviously ruffled feathers, in the manner of Estelito Mendoza and his confrontation with Clarissa Ocampo. We are far from saying that Doble is an Ocampo. But the way he stood his ground, and made a shambles of the two senators' virtual cross-examinations, is a comparable demonstration of how a witness, instead of being impeached, can impeach the prosecutors.

But it is, perhaps, with regard to Doble's testimony that he had been approached by presidential aide Medy Poblador, that his most recent testimony truly became more than a rehash or revision of his previous statements.

Doble said Poblador approached him, after he was spirited back to military custody under the auspices of Bishop Socrates Villegas, and offered him money in exchange for his refusal to testify before the House of Representatives. The public might just be willing to give the military the benefit of the doubt, for successfully retrieving one of its own who had, essentially, become a rogue agent. An aide of the President offering incentives to a witness to refuse cooperation with the House, on the other hand, is another matter altogether.

Poblador acts as a liaison between Congress and the President. She was perhaps most obviously in her role as presidential fixer during the first impeachment attempt, where she lurked in the lounge behind the Speaker's chair in the plenary hall, for reasons best left to congressmen to reveal. There is no doubt she holds a favored place in the President's innermost circle of can-do people.

The question now becomes, whether Poblador acted in a manner resembling US President Richard Nixon's aides, to keep E. Howard Hunt, implicated in the Watergate break-in scandal, quiet in exchange for money. In the United States, the result of Nixon's authorizing the bribe effort resulted in one of the articles of impeachment filed against him. We cannot emphasize how serious the allegation of Poblador's potential involvement could be, precisely because it's so reminiscent of the Nixon case.

Doble's allegations concerning Poblador, who seems to have used family ties with Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the Archbishop of Manila, to get Bishop Villegas involved, brings up questions about how the administration wields its clout with the Catholic hierarchy. Either the prelates naively acted in good faith, or were co-conspirators in crimes that range from intimidating a witness, including coercing the witness to commit perjury, to (possibly) outright kidnapping and the creation of a situation where an aide of the President could make an offer Doble couldn't refuse.

At the heart of it is an insight into motive: If Doble were simply a liar, no government would have gone this far, possibly broken so many laws, or risked wrecking so many reputations. That it did suggests Doble really has the goods on them.

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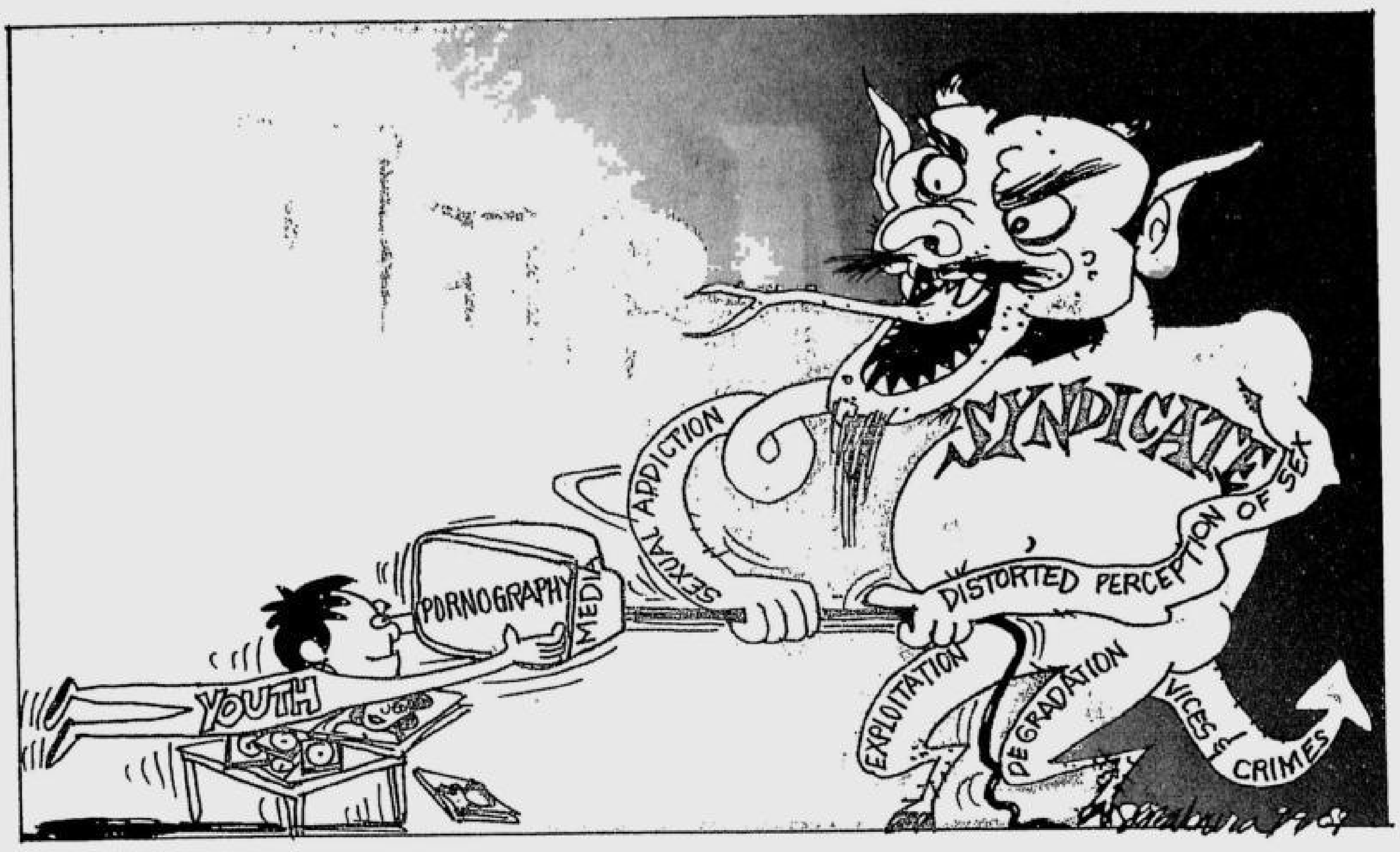


The eloquence of Lincoln

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

MY SON CALOY RECENTLY BROUGHT ME from Hong Kong a book about Abraham Lincoln. It is entitled "The Eloquent President" written by Ronald C. White Jr., who has received lavish praise for his outstanding work on one of the greatest heroes of his race and of the world. The Washington Post calls it "Splendid … An insightful, highly readable exploration of literary genius."

The book is not a biography of Lincoln but only touches on his life as reflected in the ideas and beliefs he expressed in his speeches, messages and letters that have fortunately been preserved. It covers the period from the time he bade welfare to his friends and neighbors in Illinois on Feb. 11, 1861, after his election as President of the United States, through the rigors of the Civil War that lasted for four fretful years, until his overwhelming re-election on Nov. 18, 1864 and his assassination on April 14, 1865.

In his Farewell Address at Springfield, he said:

"My friends, no one in my situation can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have been a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young man to an old man. Here my children have been born and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you and be every where for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Lincoln's formal schooling lasted only six months, but a study of his writings, and even of his extemporaneous remarks, reveals the vast reach of his intellect that clearly surpassed the erudition of the more academically gifted statesmen during his time, and present-day politicians, too, who speak mostly through their ghostwriters or television prompters and not with their own original ideas. And certainly not as eloquently as Lincoln. His readings included Euclid (all six books), Shakespeare, Burns, and the King James Bible, especially the Psalms that he often quoted.

Lincoln wrote all his formal addresses himself and started drafting his First Inaugural Address as early as one month before and continued amending it up to the time he was about to deliver it on March 4, 1861. He was that meticulous with all his other written speeches and public letters. He had the humility to seek the advice and assistance of others, like Secretary of State William Seward, who suggested many changes in that first Address most of which Lincoln accepted. But not Seward's prosaic revision of the concluding paragraph, which Lincoln retained with all its poetic sentiments that made it a classic in English literature.

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Nation, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The Gettysburg Address does not need to be quoted here for it is known throughout the world as Lincoln's greatest and most eloquent utterance. Edward Everett, the principal orator of the dedication ceremonies, wrote President Lincoln the next day and said: "I shall be glad, if I could flatter myself, that I came close as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

But let me quote in full Lincoln's equally famous letter to Mrs. Bixby that is required reading in English literature courses. It is a sincere and dignified expression of condolence from a Head of State to an unknown but appreciated citizen who had contributed to the Union cause with the death of her five sons.

"I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

According to another book published in 1917 by Orton H. Carmichael, that letter and the Gettysburg Address are studied in Oxford University "as perfect specimens of English compositions … Lincoln had never studied the art of elocution, nor was he a student of the great masters of oratory, yet a well-known English jurist, when asked to name the greatest British orator of the nineteenth century, answered: 'Lincoln, the American.'"

Lincoln the eloquent.

Light, free, all the way

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A SON WHO told his father: "Tatay, I want to take up dentistry." The father, a simple farmer, after some thought said: "Son, you know how poor we are. Can you not take up a shorter course? That's because I may not be able to support you through dentist-one, then dentist-two, till dentist-three!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 14,25-33), the Lord mentions three reasons that block discipleship. The first block is relationships. ("If anyone comes to me without his mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life cannot be my disciple.") The second block is lack of perseverance. ("This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.") The third block is possessions. ("Every one of you who does not renounce his possessions cannot be my disciple.") What is it that is blocking you from being the Lord's disciple? What is it that is preventing you from doing your mission for the Lord?

* * *

Travel light. This is the rule of thumb for anyone who seeks to follow Christ. If we are burdened and heavy, following Christ is not easy. If we are attached to worldly pressures, pleasures and measures, we cannot be His disciples. Today, let us all reflect on those things that bind us and prevent us from following Christ more truly and more generously.

* * *

Travel free. It is not easy to follow Christ if we have many attachments. Are there people in our lives who prevent us from speaking the truth and from pursuing the Gospel values? Are there people who gag or silence us? Is our mission affected by some people's permission?

* * *

Travel all the way. Too bad some of us travel with Christ only on the highway, and abandon Him as soon as we hit the rough roads and the by-ways. When the going gets rough, all the more should we stay by His side.

* * *

In Abra where I served as a missionary for a year, I learned how to bring a jeep across a river. If one had a sacristan, he could wade ahead and find the shallow part of the river. If one is alone, all it took was to throw a stone into the water, and just by the sound, know if the water ahead was shallow or deep. Today, let us reflect on how deep is our love for God.

* * *

What is a "commissioner"? One who is on the lookout for his commission? No. A commissioner is a partner in a mission. He or she is a co-missioner. Too bad many of us forget that life is a mission, and that life is for a reason. At the end of our lives, may we have no regret that we lived a life full of selfishness and greed and thus forgot to help those in need.

* * *

The problem with our so-called public servants is that they are not public and they are not servants at all. Most of them are so private and are so focused on their personal agenda. Furthermore, they are lords who make servants out of their constituents. Why? Wanted: public servants who are light, free and who travel with us all the way.

* * *

A proposition: If the leaders of our land go on with their lying spree, let's not join them, because discipleship is about standing up for the truth and righteousness; if our religious leaders take the stance of playing safe and playing mute, let us speak up, for discipleship is about taking risks and taking a stand; if our people care only about making a living and "moving on," let us remind them that life is not just about making a living, but living a life, that is pleasing to God.

* * *

Oct. 14 is the feast of the Triumph of the Cross. THE CROSS is inevitable in our lives. Those who shun the cross, who deny the cross, or who pass on the cross to others end up empty and miserable deep inside. We are all called to embrace whatever cross comes our way, and not to forget the crucified Lord in the cross.

* * *

"Do you love me more than these?" Again and again, the Lord asks us these questions in every situation and in every decision. We can say anything we want, we can put up all the reasons and rationalizations in our minds, but the bottom line is: Did we put God first in our lives, did we make room for God, did we know the meaning of sacrifice?

* * *

Oct. 15 is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. There must be a lot of sorrows in Mama Mary's eyes when she looks at the Philippines these days. She must be shedding tears, and even tears of blood, as sh looks on our people who are so oppresse and deprived by the very people tasked t protect, help and defend them. But sh continues to look on us with the eyes o love. If the Blessed Mother does not give u on us, neither should we give up on ou selves nor on each other. Let us continue t ask our Mother to heal us, and to heal ou motherland.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to travel light and free, and travel with you all the way. Amen.

Role of the Judicial and Bar Council

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

CONGRESS MAKES THE LAWS AND THE PRESIdent enforces them. Sometimes, these laws collide with the fundamental rights of our people, either in the way they are crafted by Congress or in the manner the President and other officials enforce or "apply" them.

Importance of judicial independence. In a constitutional democracy such as ours, political issues are settled by popular or majoritarian ways. However, unelected judges decide legal questions by applying relevant laws to a proven set of facts. When a court upholds the rights of a citizen, or acquits a person accused of a crime by the "People of the Philippines," the winner becomes a majority of one against the whole government.

This awesome power to decide even against the "people" is granted to the judiciary by the Constitution, which, in turn, was approved overwhelmingly by the electorate. But citizens obey judicial verdicts not only because of the authority given to judges by the Constitution but also because of their implicit trust in the wisdom and fairness of these decisions.

To help retain public confidence in our judicial system, magistrates should be chosen prudently. I believe that they must possess four **"ins"**—**in**dependence, **in**tegrity, **in**dustry and **in**telligence, and must be impervious to the "plague of ships"—kin**ship**, relation**ship**, friend**ship** and fellow**ship**.

Of these qualifications, independence and integrity are probably the most vital, especially in litigations involving actions of the President or of other executive officials. A judge who does not possess independence and integrity does not deserve to be in the judiciary, in the same manner that a biased basketball referee has no place in the game.

How magistrates are chosen. In the past, the President was given maximum latitude in appointing any lawyer who meets the minimum length of law practice imposed by law. However, before they assumed office, the appointees needed confirmation by the Commission on Appointments (CA), that was (and still is) composed of members of Congress.

In those days, judicial appointees were subjected not only to intensive questioning by the CA but also to various personal demands for favors by its members. Congressmen required the loyalty of judges assigned to their districts. Those promoted to higher courts were publicly ridiculed for their alleged erroneous decisions. In short, the appointees' integrity and independence were unnecessarily diminished by reckless imputations and political power plays.

To remedy the problem, the 1987 Constitution—at the suggestion of former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion—created the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) with the "principal function of recommending appointees to the Judiciary." True, the new Charter still empowered the President to appoint all magistrates, including those in the Supreme Court, but the presidential choices were limited to a JBC-prepared list containing at least three nominees for every vacancy. Magistrates no longer needed CA confirmation; thus, they were liberated from undue congressional inquisitions.

Composition of the JBC. Under the new Constitution, the JBC is composed of (1) the Chief Justice as chairman, (2) the secretary of justice, (3) a representative of Congress, (4) a representative of the Integrated Bar, (5) a professor of law, (6) a retired Supreme Court justice, and (7) a representative of the private sector. The first three are referred to as "ex-officio members" while the last four, "regular members."

True, the Constitution specified "a representative of Congress." But, in practice and consistent with the bicameral nature of our legislature, two members of Congress—a senator and a congressman—actually sit in the JBC. Thus, there are, in fact, eight sitting JBC members, each of whom casts one vote. This increase in composition has some implications; for example, the vote needed to approve actions is five (out of eight members), instead of only four (out of seven). Also, the legislative branch has now two votes in the Council while the two other branches of government retained only one each.

During my watch as Chief Justice, there was a proposal to limit the congressional vote to only one, but the suggestion was abandoned because, to resolve the issue, an "adversarial proceeding" was needed. On the other hand, the four regular, full-time JBC members are appointed by the President "for a term of four years with the consent of the Commission on Appointments," and could be reappointed.

In sum, under the present system, judicial appointees are shielded from direct congressional influence, but JBC members are not. Further, nothing—except the highest form of statesmanship—prevents a politically minded President from suggesting, directly or subtly, to the Council—especially to his or her appointees—the nomination of those he or she intends to appoint. Verily, the President could still "pack" the courts, despite the Concepcion-inspired constitutional innovation.

Apart from structural concerns, the JBC has also been criticized for the ways it has conducted its work: (1) its alleged lack of transparency and lackluster nomination process, (2) its supposed inability to fill up the many judicial vacancies, thereby aggravating delays; and (3) the inclusion in its recommended list of some unworthy nominees who unfortunately get appointed and eventually taint the whole judiciary.

Next week, I shall discuss these criticisms and how the JBC is confronting them.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Transparency

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NOT HAVING FOLLOWED THE SAGA OF THE "infamous" National Broadband Network contract snagged by the Chinese firm ZTE, I really have nothing new to contribute to the raging debate over its legality and even necessity.

Certainly, there are many points to raise regarding this contract, first of which is where the contract is to be found, if it exists at all. Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza is supposed to have signed the contract, in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, during a very brief visit to China, where the President was quite unflatteringly described by a Malacañang press release as having come "like a thief in the night." But the Philippine copy of that signed contract has reportedly been "lost" or "stolen." No one seems willing to release to the public the details and fine print of the $330-million deal, and yet despite the public outcry raised by business groups, senators and even Speaker Jose de Venecia, Malacañang has announced that the broadband contract will push through.

The controversy has embroiled various personalities, from Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who is reported to have been "wined, dined and womanned" by Chinese businessmen in exchange for his support and lobbying efforts; to former Neda Director General Romulo Neri who dropped hints that he had been offered P200 million to approve the deal; and the son of the Speaker, who is connected with a rival company bidding for the same contract, who has accused Abalos of offering him a $10-million bribe to back out of the bidding.

With so much money at stake, everyone who opens his or her mouth about this matter is suspected of having ulterior motives. But the very confusion attending the deal and the gravity of the charges being hurled from all directions indicate that indeed there is something rotten at its core. And the more the key personalities—like Mendoza—keep mum, hoping perhaps the stink will just fade away, the more the rot will spread until it affects the highest levels of government.

* * *

IT'S all the secrecy and furtiveness employed that has given credence to suspicions of foul play and corruption.

Mendoza and the DOTC, for instance, have refused time and again to produce a copy of the contract, which has reportedly been reconstituted and even "re-signed." What is it about the contract that must be kept hidden from the public eye, and even from official investigators? Are there hidden provisions too sensitive to be discussed out in the open?

All this flies in the face of the principles of transparency, accountability and good governance that President Arroyo, just to remind her, promised to uphold when she triumphantly took her oath of office in 2001, having watched "People Power II" oust her corrupt predecessor.

Some may argue that to rescind the contract now would send a contrary signal to foreign investors, who have often bewailed the politicization even of legitimate contracts, which are subject to dispute in our courts and in our legislature. But to uphold the ZTE deal, despite the many questions being raised, is to send an even more ominous signal to investors. It would be tantamount to saying that, given the right connections, any foreigner wishing to do business in the Philippines need only grease the right palms and influence the right officials and even highly anomalous deals would win the patina of legality.

If there is nothing wrong with the contract, if the public interest will be upheld, then certainly everyone involved in this broadband project should welcome an investigation and, as the saying goes, "let everything hang out."

* * *

IT may be too late by now to sing the praises of "Hairspray," a Hollywood musical that just faded from the commercial circuit. But, having watched it last week, I just wanted to add my voice to the chorus of "happy" folks who've been entertained, enchanted and entranced by this story of a plucky teen from Baltimore who didn't let anything—not body image, size, skin color or public opinion—get in the way of doing the right thing.

I was intrigued by the movie as early as last month, when businessman and art patron Ernest Escaler told me that when he watched the movie in the United States, the entire theater audience rose as one and gave it a standing ovation. This wasn't during a premiere, mind, but during an ordinary commercial run. And indeed, I myself felt like standing up and applauding at the end of the film, and if I only knew the lyrics, I would have joined in the singing as well.

Much of the credit for the "feel good" vibes of "Hairspray" goes to Nikki Blonsky, an unknown who reportedly "blew away" not just the competition but even the movie's producers when she auditioned for the role of Tracy Turnblad. As the role required, Nikki is, as the polite term goes, a "plus size" teen, but she not only embraces this physical attribute, she celebrates it. And my, how she moves!

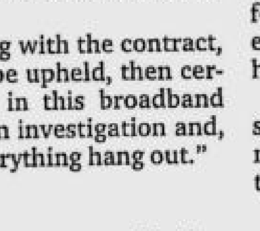
* * *

THE "STAR POWER" in the movie is provided by John Travolta, who, in the tradition of both the original movie and the musical based on it, on which this movie is based (still follows?), plays Tracy's mother Edna, complete with a fat suit and hideous hair-do.

Unfortunately, I think the prosthetic make-up got in the way of Travolta's acting, since his Edna's face seems unable to register any discernible emotion. But he does give Edna fleet-footed dance moves, and his number at the end of the movie confirms that he's never lost his "Saturday Night Fever" credentials.

If you can find a theater still showing "Hairspray," or a DVD of it, I urge you to watch the movie posthaste. It'll certainly give you a lift in these days of gloom and controversy!

The twilight of Pervez Musharraf



WORLD VIEW

Ian Bremmer

IT IS SAID THAT POLITICAL POWER IN PAKIStan flows from the three A's: Allah, the army, and support from America. Of the three, it is the army leadership that has the clearest means of ridding the country of Pakistan's president in uniform, Pervez Musharraf. And that's the main reason any power-sharing deal with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is unlikely to end Pakistan's political turmoil.

Musharraf hoped to extend his presidency this fall without caving in to opposition demands that he renounce his military position and restore a civilian rival to the post of prime minister. But few international leaders face such a wide range of sworn domestic enemies.

Since seizing power following a 1999 coup, Musharraf has survived at least three serious assassination attempts. His anti-terrorist partnership with the United States fatally undermined his political alliance with Pakistan's religious conservatives even before his government stormed Islamabad's Red Mosque in July, killing more than 100 people. The threat of terrorist attacks inside the country will continue to rise.

Musharraf also has plenty of secular enemies. Their anger, inflamed in March when he tried unsuccessfully to sack the Supreme Court's independent-minded chief justice, rages on. The court recently ruled that Nawaz Sharif, who Musharraf unseated eight years ago, must be allowed to return from exile.

Sharif is planning a grand entrance. His "decisive struggle against dictatorship"—and determined opposition to any deal with Bhutto that excludes him—will intensify. Musharraf is warning him to remain in London.

America isn't happy with Musharraf, either. Some in Washington charge that he has done too little to roust al-Qaida and Taliban fighters from safe havens along the country's border with Afghanistan. His recent flirtation with a plan to bypass Bhutto and declare emergency rule provoked pointed Bush administration criticism.

But it's the army that is most likely to eventually decide the fate of his presidency. Musharraf's rule has given the military leadership a strong role in policymaking, but his eight years in office have badly damaged domestic support for the army's influence within the government. His unpopularity has become their unpopularity.

Aware of a potential threat from within their ranks, Musharraf has populated his inner circle with relatively junior (and reliably loyal) officers. But a deal that makes Bhutto prime minister would undermine the military's influence—and eventually its support for Musharraf's presidency. As prime minister, she could eventually revisit her deal with Musharraf from a position of strength. Military leaders know this, and the threat that they will eventually push him aside will plague his presidency well into next year.

The army is unlikely to move on Musharraf directly unless subtler methods fail. The generals know that another coup would further weaken the military's popular standing—as well as Pakistan's relations with the United States—at a moment when Bhutto and Sharif have raised expectations at home and abroad for a permanent return to civilian rule.

But if Musharraf were to refuse to go quietly, the generals could promise him a long list of public corruption charges that he must survive without their protection. Musharraf's presidency won't survive long without military backing.

To preserve the appearance that their meddling is benign, senior military officers probably know that they cannot afford to install another general as president. Instead, they will most likely support cosmetic political reforms, including a new law that formally separates the roles of army commander and head of state.

That is the strategy the military adopted in 1988, following the mysterious plane crash that killed former President (and General) Mohammed Zia ul-Haq. The army leadership ordered elections, permitted the formation of a civilian government and then stage-managed the political process from the wings.

Bhutto, the leader of a secular party that now enjoys substantial support in Washington, would dominate policy planning in the next government at Musharraf's expense. She must build on her domestic support, but she can rely on economic and security cooperation with America to safeguard the country's stability.

In addition, the military's role as guarantor of stability, and its tight control of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, the army's crown jewels, will continue. The Bush administration can therefore enthusiastically back a return to civilian rule and claim a much-needed victory for democracy in a Muslim country.

But Bhutto would inherit Musharraf's domestic enemies. Sharif would fulminate against her every misstep, threats of attack from religious radicals would continue and the military would safeguard its interests from just off stage. Adding to the pressure, America would expect the kind of cooperation in pacifying Pakistan's tribal areas that Musharraf has proven unable to provide.

The military will, under any scenario, continue to quell fears of complete political chaos. But it would also likely ensure that a Musharraf-Bhutto deal does not fully close a tumultuous chapter in Pakistan's history. ***Project Syndicate***

Ian Bremmer is president of Eurasia Group, the global political risk consultancy, and author of "The J Curve: A New Way to Understand Why Nations Rise and Fall."

Hyperdrive

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DENMARK, and the stench is crawling and clawing through the highways of cyberspace.

In the real world, where the bylines of journalists are printed beneath articles, and modulated voices announce the names of patrolling reporters, freedom of speech goes hand in hand with accountability—after all, to publish anything is to give anyone license to answer back. But in the shady alleys of cyberspace, accountability and civility are perhaps as foreign as a jeepney parked outside an Alaskan igloo.

While I have no problem responding to contradictory attacks that claim I am both a kept dog of capitalist pigs as well as leftist swine, I am astonished by the savagery of people online who appear to believe that the length of my skirt and the configurations of my nose are reflections of my capacity as a journalist. But inasmuch as I am flattered by the impact of my writing on these same people—impact enough to elicit curses and colorful insinuations—I'm beginning to believe there's reason to be alarmed at such gutter behavior.

It is a trend that a few minutes of googling will prove to be a norm among individuals educated enough to afford computer access and Internet service. Arguments over the state of newspapers or the merits of a movie, for example, can degenerate to name-calling, racist slurs, and accusations of parental infidelity. Perhaps the best example of this jarring new trend toward baseless and vulgar flaming is the recent controversy over the woman now dubbed "Mahaderang Matapobre, whose articles in several publications have caused consternation over her insensitivity to OFWs."

That I disapprove of what Malu Fernandez said is an understatement, and the same is true, I hope, for the rest of decent humanity. I find her words tasteless and classless, the sort of backward thinking from the days when people were condemned for their race, sex and economic status. To say that she wanted to slash her wrist at the thought of being trapped in a plane with OFWs smacks of the same sense of humor as that of children who laugh at a little boy with a cleft lip, or a black man for being black. It is cheap writing, lazy writing, an attempt to entertain at the expense of others who cannot help who they are. And because this is a world where boundaries are no longer geographic, and words written under a tropical sun reverberate across the Pacific to snowy cities, Ms Fernandez's articles caught the attention—and the outrage—of Filipinos all over the world.

The old mechanisms of media's checks and balances are still in place. Ms Fernandez's narrowness, insensitivity and crudeness have all been spotlighted by readers. However, there is a difference between criticizing Ms Fernandez for her work, and Ms Fernandez for her person. All over the World Wide Web, thousands of comments, fueled, justifiably, by outrage, have launched bitter attacks against her as a woman—her weight, her social class, her physical appearance. The basics of civilized behavior require some sort of internal policing, and the fact that Ms Fernandez herself was unable to comply with these basics does not justify such crudeness in kind. Call it a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

In the old media, to call a woman a prostitute, her mother a prostitute, as well as a piece of trash, a roast pig, a pig in a dress, a pig in a plane, an individual for whom liposuction would not be effective and other insults with reference to her weight would result in cases of defamation and libel or, at the very least, very loud calls for the newspaper's boycott. In the new media, however, it's open city. Ms Fernandez's name has been used in the same sentence as various curses, crude sexual suggestions that are probably illegal in some states, and various other propositions that include assassination and the burning of her home. And while it is easy to say their judgment of Ms Fernandez is a judgment on them, it is difficult to pinpoint a culprit signing on under the name of "cuteboy77."

And so while upstanding journalists in the real world are slammed with libel cases left and right for publishing truths that certain powerful personalities find uncomfortable, online, everyone and his mother can get away with the publication of offensive, untrue and downright libelous claims that they wouldn't dare whisper inside a half-empty elevator.

It is true that calls for banning and various forms of paranoia have been raised at the introduction of every new technology. Everything from cameras to television to the rise of the computer has given way to debates on censorship and the dangers of freedom. There are some from the old guard who complain that the Internet is full of ranting, of angst, of personal agonies about love lives and plumbing problems and whether a blue denim bikini would be better than brown paisley. Of these, I have nothing against, and I am all for writing about hot men and cold showers as I am over the bizarre state of Philippine politics and the dangers of a nuclear age. Art house pornography is as much a legitimate interest as my friend in med school's penchant for posting images of cadavers, and for as long as no law regarding plagiarism, pedophilia, or any of the dozens of crimes that rage in cyberspace and the real world are broken, then I say it's a free country.

There are many reasons to celebrate the power of the Internet, too many to get into a column a little more than a thousand words long. But in the grand tradition of Spider-man's parting words, all those reasons, and the power they imply, require some sort of personal responsibility. It is the lack of personal accountability that permits a 40-year-old man to sit in an Internet café and anonymously make vulgar suggestions about the state of a 19-year-old girl's reproductive organs. Outside, it is harassment; on the Internet, it's free speech. The grand old art of reasoned debate and civilized discussion dies inside forums where all and sundry accuse each other of fornicating with their own mothers. And although it's all very well to celebrate anonymity in repressive states and war-torn regions, where freedom of speech is considered as dangerous to the public as a credit card is in the hands of an Imelda Marcos, in a country like ours, it is cowardly to sling mud at people who have little opportunity to sling back. How, after all, is it possible to fight against phantoms?

We can thank the Internet's denizens for the fact that Ms Fernandez has paid the price for her insensitivity. I doubt if any of those whose insensitivity has peppered the forums will ever pay for theirs.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Jatropha: What the public should know

GOVERNMENT IS AGGRESSIVELY PUSHING FOR THE CULTIVATION OF Jatropha curcas (*tuba-tuba*) as a source of renewable fuel. Goldman Sachs recently cited jatropha as one of the best candidates for future biodiesel production. The plant, which produces golf-ball-size fruits that contain oil, can be grown in any kind of soil. And it doesn't need much water and fertilizer.

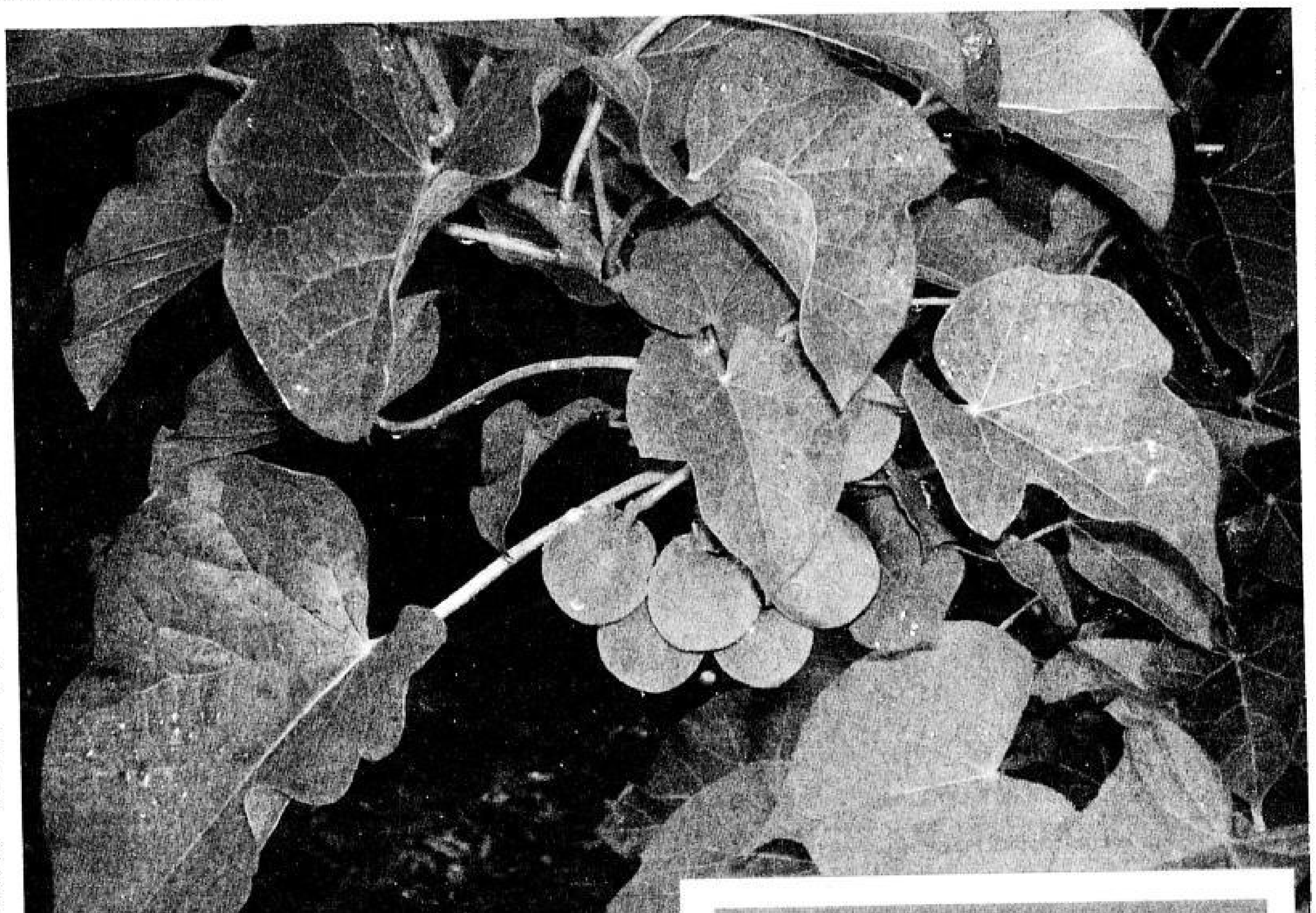
Leading the campaign for the propagation of jatropha in the country is Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC).

The corporation has tied up with the military to set up a 500-hectare nursery in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. In Mindanao, the corporation is looking at some 1.2 million hectares as its main hub for jatropha production.

Two weeks ago, Land Bank of the Philippines signed an agreement to provide PNOC-AFC with P5 billion to P10 billion to finance the jatropha development program. Part of the money will fund cooperatives developing jatropha plantations.

Among the benefits of jatropha cultivation that government is trumpeting are the reduction in air pollution and the country's dependence on imported crude oil, creation of jobs, and construction of roads, bridges and a refinery.

A group of agriculturists is claiming that proponents of the massive cultivation of jatropha are peddling misleading information as facts. The group advises people to study the facts first before going into jatropha farming.



PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

By Ted Mendoza, Oscar Zamora and Joven Lales

WILL PLANTING *JATropha curcas L.* or *tuba-tuba* provide the financial benefits a government agency is promising farmers?

In our study, published in the Philippine Journal of Crop Science Vol. 32 No. 1 on Jan. 17 and titled "Towards Making Jatropha curcas (*tubang bakod*) a Viable Source of Biodiesel in the Philippines," we found that:

- Jatropha becomes a viable source of biodiesel if diesel is retailed at P40 per liter; if the crop has a high fruit yield of 36,000 kilogram per hectare (ha); if it has a high rate of oil extraction (34 percent and 38 percent); and if byproducts are included and provide 50-percent additional income from the oil revenue.

The assumption is that the price of jatropha seeds corresponds to the price of diesel.

But would a high yield of 36,000 kg/ha and high oil content (34 percent and 38 percent) be achieved under Philippine conditions?

This question can only be definitively answered in some future time because we do not have a plantation already on the optimum fruiting age (five years after planting) and no jatropha variety is grown in the Philippines that yields 34 percent oil. The current laboratory oil extraction is in the range of 28 percent to 32 percent.

- At a low-yield level (12,000 kg/ha), jatropha becomes profitable for farmers growing it if the diesel price increases to about P140 per liter at a 30-percent rate of oil extraction (revenue is from oil alone). This implies that the buying price of jatropha seeds at the farm level is P42/kg. The substrate cost shall be P42/.30 = P140/liter of biodiesel.

The estimates exclude processing and marketing costs. Current estimates put the processing cost at P12/liter. Then, the price of biodiesel from jatropha becomes P152/liter [P140 + P12]. What if the oil price increases to more than P152 per liter? If so, let's be prepared to use *caleza* and bicycle, or simply walk.

Jatropha's seed yield is inherently low, which explains partly the low revenue. This low-yield trait is suggestive that researches must be done to increase further its seed yield and to find ways to maximize total farm yield and byproducts. However, will the results of these experiments be realized soon?

For a perennial crop that gives optimum fruiting after five years, hybridization and selection would require a minimum of 35 years (7 cycles of selection x 5 years = 35 years). Genetic improvements to enhance jatropha's overall trait as an energy crop could have been done way ahead. But this is water under the bridge. We can not hurry up nature.

There are other information that the the public should know or understand. These include the following:

1 The long wait for the crop to reach optimum fruiting (five years after planting) and its low-seed yield require a multiple-cropping scheme. Short-maturing crops and high-value fruit and wood trees should be planted along with jatropha to increase the total farm yield. The scheme is also a risk-minimizing strategy.

Are the public and the agency promoting the massive planting of jatropha putting equal emphasis on promoting multiple cropping? We support diverse cropping but we should point out that jatropha is a sun-loving crop. While it grows under the shade, photosynthesis (growth and yield) will be affected in proportion to the degree of shading.

It should be expected that jatropha yield per plant will decrease under multiple-cropping conditions due to a reduction in space and sunlight. But it is logical for farmers to adopt multiple cropping. If something happens to jatropha and the price does not improve over time, farmers will have some crops to fall back on. But we do not know much about this age-old practice of multiple cropping.

Jatropha produces a toxin called curcin. Will this substance exert toxic effects on companion crops? Due to this toxin, planting of jatropha was banned in Northern Australia. The Australians are afraid that their cattle will forage on jatropha during the dry months. Besides, they are afraid that it will become weeds later on.

2 Many people are enticed to plant jatropha because of the massive government campaign to promote it. One million hectares are targeted. But construction of the processing plant has not started and it will take some time to set up the processing system.

It should be pointed out that three or five years after planting jatropha is too short a time. Are the processing plants ready by that time? Furthermore, it is necessary that the know-how to accelerate the optimization of processing raw oil into transesterified oil before it can be used as biodiesel oil, and processing of byproducts (press cake and/or glycerol) into high-priced products be acquired soon. Will these technological know-how be ready in three or five years?

This is one of the worries aired by those who were earlier enticed to plant jatropha. "Planting jatropha without knowing all the facts can be a very painful and costly experience. Knowing the pitfalls can help make planting more worthwhile and successful. While wealthy companies plant jatropha on a massive scale, small farm owners like many of us must be careful.

Wealthy companies know what they are doing. They plant in huge tracts of idle land that they do not own (leased to them cheaply by government or owned by others) and with very little or no expense (while we have to buy seeds and seedlings from suppliers who promise to buy our produce—assuming there will be some to buy.) Yes, these companies are speculating on a potentially valuable product that will produce biofuel in the future, but they are doing it using other people's money, time and effort. Speculating is good but only if you know the odds."

For those who are planning to plant jatropha, clearly there are still many unanswered questions.

3 Planting *tuba-tuba* is primarily aimed at making productive idle public and private lands, particularly denuded mountains and forests, unfit for food-crop cultivation, and at producing in commercial volume a renewable and environment-friendly biofuel (biodiesel), thus alleviating poverty in the countryside and addressing ecological concerns.

This is a very inviting statement among jatropha proponents. We should point out, however, the following facts:

- First, jatropha can grow in marginal soils but growth and yield will also be slow and marginal or low. There is a saying "you cannot get something from nothing!"
- Second, for us agriculturists, there is no land, which is unfit for food-crop cultivation. Where jatropha grows, mangoes, cashew, *siniguelas*, *duhat*, jackfruit, *bignay* and many other tropical fruits will grow. Moreover, cassava, sweet potato and many legumes will also grow.
- Third, jatropha can survive dry weather but it will shed off leaves as an adaptive measure, to avoid dying due to excessive loss of water. But then, there is no growth and no fruit set. It will resume growth once the soil is moist again.
- Fourth, jatropha grows well under a favorable environment (high soil fertility, adequate moisture and weed management during its early years of growth). But using these lands will compete with lands grown to food security crops, which the proponents try to avoid.

What are the latest observations? Fertilized jatropha plants grow well when irrigated but they become vegetative. This means that they do not yield the quantity of fruits that we expect.

4 There is a big push for growing jatropha using imported seeds as they are high yielding.

Importing the high-yielding varieties may also mean the importation of "unknown" bad traits like susceptibility to pests. Using imported seeds should be done with utmost care. It would be frustrating if the imported seeds were planted in large tracts of land and we later came to know that the plant was susceptible to viral or fungal diseases.

Moreover, it might just serve as a source of inoculum, thus infecting even the indigenized varieties in the country.

5 The main feature being claimed about Jatropha curcas or *tubang bakod* is that it could yield yearly as much as five to seven tons of seeds per hectare.

As pointed out earlier, there is no standing crop to validate this claim. We tried to validate this using known scientific procedures. This could be easily done by transforming the sugar equivalence of oil as illustrated below:

- 30 percent oil x 5 tons x 3.03-gram glucose equivalence of oil in seed (3.03 x 1.50) = 4.54 tons
- 2.42-gram glucose equivalence of seed coat and the press cake = 9.80 tons (2.8 x 3.5)

TOTAL = 14.34 tons/ha (4.54 + 9.80)

There's a remote possibility that jatropha would give such seed yield as the sugar equivalence is so high, estimated at 14.34 MT/ha. Sugarcane, the highest-yielding energy crop, which produces sugar via the C4 pathway of photosynthesis could only give a maximum of 10 tons of sugar/ha in the Philippines.

Jatropha fixes carbon dioxide via the C3 path way. It lacks nature's gift to photosynthesize the way the jatropha proponents want it to be. Besides, it is supposed to be planted in marginal soils to avoid the concern that it will compete with food crop production. Simple logic: marginal soils—marginal yield as pointed out earlier.

6 A private company is buying jatropha seeds at P4 per kilo. "Is this the right buying price?" one jatropha-planter enthusiast asks.

Before answering the question, it is important to quote the pricing scheme being spread around ("Tuba-Tuba for oil," Ed Velasco, Oct. 9, 2006, Philippine Graphic Magazine). The article says that PhilForest buys 1 kg of dried *tuba-tuba* seeds at 15 percent of the prevailing diesel pump prices (0.15 x P34/liter = P5.10/kg, P34 is the price per liter, then, of diesel).

Before buying the produce, the dried *tuba-tuba* seeds should contain less than 10 percent of the moisture level set by the Department of Science and Technology. If seeds containing more than 10 percent of the moisture level are processed, the diesel will be less effective and might cause engine problems.

Jatropha seed at P4/kg? What does this price mean? Consider the following simple estimates:

- 1 kg seed = 5.1 kg dried fruit or 9.7 kg fresh (yellow fruit) = 7.41/kg average weight of fruits.
- On the average, 1 kg seed at P4 kg = P 0.54/kg fruit.

What does this figure imply? Harvesting the fruits in the field, hauling and initially drying them, and then dehulling the fruits to get the seeds will only fetch a price of P0.54/kg fruit.

Will there be people in the rural areas who would be willing to harvest and extract the seeds and be paid a measly P0.54/kg fruit? This is a further insult to injury. It is shamefully making the poor poorer in the guise of energy security.

7 To entice people to plant jatropha, an income of P50,000/ha is being promised. A promised financial bounty or simple deceit?

Our estimates reveal the following: If the crop would yield, say, 1,500 kg-seeds/ha/year at P4-P5/kg = P6,000/ha to P7,500/ha.

Or, if the seed price is P33.33 /kg. Granting without accepting that the yield would be 5t/ha, then the gross income will be P4/kg x 5,000 = P20,000/ha or 5/kg x 5,000 = P25,000/ha.

They [Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuels Corp.] reported that it costs about P50,000 to establish and maintain the crop in two years. The figures they are citing do not match.

It was claimed that P50,000/ha was needed to establish and maintain the crop in two years. The seedling cost alone is already P37,500 at P15/pc x 2,500 plants per ha. Or seed yield should already be 5-7.5 tons/ha.

We pointed out earlier that 5 tons/ha is not a realizable yield. It is difficult now to imagine how to realize an income of P50,000/ha.

We are reminded of the pyramiding scam! There are groups which are thinking about multilevel marketing.

"Can we make use of Jatropha curcas as a product for multilevel marketing *para bumilis ang pagtatanim at benta* (to expedite planting and selling)?" one asked.

"I am researching a company in the Philippines [engaged] in multilevel marketing (MLM) of agricultural products. Good Harvest in Bataan sells stocks for grafted mango tree for a P30,000 investment. All we need is a manufacturer of Jatropha Methyl Esther (JME) to sell the seeds. So it's like a big MLM cooperative. If we hit the right system for this, I think this will be successful. This is a crazy idea, but this will be good for the growers who already have planted Jatropha curcas plants and are now fruiting..."

What does this thinking reveal? Friends, our answer is as good as yours!

8 Jatropha oil has high saponification value, making it an excellent substrate for soap-making. Two products may then be obtained from jatropha: soap and biodiesel.

This could be a positive attribute of jatropha. Could we teach farmers how to produce soap from jatropha in case its buying price will not be profitable for them?

These are but few of the truths about jatropha that we think the public should know.

(Professors Ted Mendoza, Oscar Zamora and Joven Lales are on the Faculty of Crop Science, College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.)

Power crops

Estimated cost per barrel of fuel produced by selected biofuel feedstocks

Cellulose	$305
Wheat	125
Rapeseed	125
Soybean	122
Sugar beets	100
Corn	83
Sugarcane	45
Jatropha	**43**

SOURCE: GOLDMAN SACHS/THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, AUG. 24-26, 2007

The law applies to all or none at all.

Filipinos have spoken. LISTEN...

"This is a case of justice. It's beyond politics. It's a case of morality – a question of what's right or wrong. Are our laws made on the streets? Is the innocence of one man proven through numerous protests held in his favor or by the way he lives his life?"

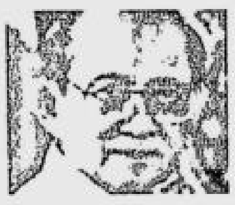
-- Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales

"Right now, the matter of surveys has not been touched. But no matter how many surveys come out, they cannot affect our decision. (The Sandiganbayan) will deal with the issue (regarding the release of the SWS survey on Erap's pardon and other matters related to the case) and make appropriate recommendations to the Supreme Court."

-- Sandiganbayan Justice Teresita de Castro

"Nasa kamay ng mga mahistrado ang usaping ito at walang magagawa ang lahat kundi ito'y irespeto."

-- Leah Navarro, Founding Member, Black & White Movement



"... wait for the courts."

-- Former President Fidel V. Ramos (on the survey that most people want the government to pardon Estrada)

Surveys commissioned and used to manipulate public perception are not evidence.

ONLY EVIDENCE SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR THE JUDICIARY'S DECISION.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE MISLED.
WAIT FOR THE VERDICT.
RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW.

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Suzette Pido

Blesilda Buencamino
Ma. Rita Del Rosario
Ma. Della Vera
Lourdes Alba Siscar
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Journalist killer transferred to Munti

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE CONVICTED killer of Pagadian City journalist Edgar Damalerio had been transferred to the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa, a prison official said yesterday.

Insp. Belsie Agustin, spokesperson of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Western Mindanao, said former police officer Guillermo Wapile's transfer to the NBP from the Zamboanga City Reformatory Center (ZCRC) here on Aug. 31 was made secret.

"His transfer was confidential and we didn't issue any statement so we could deliver him safely to the National Bilibid Prisons," Agustin told the INQUIRER.

Agustin said even Wapile's family and relatives were not informed about the transfer.

"Including himself. We didn't inform him prior to the transfer. A few hours before the scheduled flight, we ordered him to pack his things for his transfer," he said.

High risk

Wapile, who is considered high-profile and high-risk inmate, was heavily escorted and two handcuffs were used to restrain him, according to Agustin.

"His cuffed hands were concealed with towel so as not to alarm passengers of the commercial aircraft used to bring him to Muntinlupa," Agustin said.

Wapile was sentenced to life in prison by a Cebu court last year for killing Damalerio, of the Zamboanga Scribe, in May 2002.

He also faces other crimes such as kidnapping.

Supt. Victor Borres, ZCRC warden, said Wapile's status as a high-risk prisoner had prompted them to confine him to maximum security while he was still at the facility.

Fattened

He said Damalerio's killer had gained weight inside the ZCRC because he was never allowed out of his cell.

Reporters had earlier found that Wapile used to enjoy some privileges, including gambling and karaoke singing, while in detention at the ZCRC.

This triggered uproar among journalists and Damalerio's relatives, who claimed he was being given special treatment.

He was later stripped of the privileges.

Agustin said what set Wapile apart from other prisoners was he enjoyed good food and "he lived in style while in detention."

He described Wapile's clothing and other personal belongings as "really very expensive."

"He did not wear ordinary clothes. He had signature items and brand new clothes," Agustin said.

During his transfer to Muntilupa, he said that Wapile packed his expensive clothes "such as Collezione, Levi's, Dickies and Fubus" with him.

"Just imagine, he's out of work yet he could still afford such expensive things. He's really somebody in Pagadian," Agustin said. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

4 Sayyaf men fall in Palawan

By Alcuin Papa

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—FOUR MEMBERS OF the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf were arrested by military operatives here Thursday and Friday, the military's Western Command said.

Arrested last Thursday were Moadz Jala, alias Abu Moadz; Abdulla Abduraham, alias Abdullah; and Omar Ibnu Jakarain alias Abu Mogera. A fourth member of the terror group, a certain Najer Daud, alias Ben Saif Daud, was arrested last Friday.

The four were immediately flown to Basilan where they are facing charges and warrants of arrest.

Wescom spokesperson Lt. Col. Jacinto de Vera told reporters here that the arrest of the four was made possible by the cooperation of civilians and military operatives.

"If not for the cooperation of the community, we would not be able to get them," he said.

A press statement released by Wescom said the three arrested last Friday were monitored in Bataraza, a town some 250 km south of Puerto Princesa City.

The three left for the city last Wednesday, switching from one vehicle to another to mislead operatives until they reached the city and were subsequently arrested the following day.

At first, Wescom was mum on the arrest of the four.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. confirmed only the arrest of Mogera on Friday.

Of the four, Mogera is said to be a close ally of Jemaah Islamiyah leader Dulmatin and is allegedly involved in the 2002 Bali bombing in Indonesia and in the 2001 Dos Palmas kidnapping of tourists, mostly foreigners, here.

Asked for the motives of the four's presence here, De Vera said there was a possibility that they were planning to sow terror in the city.

"Considering that they are terrorists, if they are in a certain place, they are planning," he said. "That is why I am asking for the help of everybody here. If there are things or baggage left behind unattended, let us inform the concerned agencies."

De Vera likewise said the four could be on a mission to create a diversion from ongoing military offensives against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu.

"We are also considering that. We have been closely watching that since the start of hostilities there," he said.

De Vera also said the capture of the four was a big blow to the Abu Sayyaf Group.

"As you see, Mogera is a close ally of Dulmatin," he said.

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said Jakarain was involved in the 2002 bombing in Bali, Indonesia that killed more than 200 people, most of them Australian and foreign tourists.

Jakarain, Bacarro said, is a close ally of JI bomber Dulmatin, widely credited as the planner of the Bali bombing.

With a report from Geraldforde Ticke, contributor

SCHOOL DAY

PHOTO FROM SARANGANI INFORMATION OFFICE

Students seek shelter at a waiting shed in Sarangani province as they wait for a ride to get to school. The student population in the school has doubled as a result of a feeding program initiated by private individuals who were also helping build schools and facilities for mostly students from tribal groups. ***(See story on Page A15)***

575 workers of telecoms giant to lose their jobs on Sept. 16

DAVAO CITY—A TOTAL OF 575 workers of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) were served termination papers.

Engineer Benjamin Gaite, head of the PLDT Ponciano business office here, confirmed the termination of the workers.

"I really don't have the office documents but I know they were given notices," Gaite told the INQUIRER by phone on Friday.

The PLDT workers' union said the retrenched workers, 29 of them from Mindanao, will cease working for the phone company by Sept. 16.

This is the second time that PLDT laid off workers.

In 2002, it also terminated the services of 500 employees.

Iron Ramirez, Mindanao sector head of the 3,750-strong Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas (MKP), said the fresh retrenchment was another illegal move by PLDT as it clearly violated the provisions of their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

"The retrenchment of 575 workers is the second wave. It must be noted that the layoff in 2002 of more than 500 workers was illegal according to the Supreme Court," said Ramirez.

"The Supreme Court has ordered the return to work of the retrenched workers but the PLDT management... has not accepted the workers," he said.

He said his group would protest the retrenchment.

"The management is not honest on what is stipulated in the CBA. The irony of this is PLDT is highly praised as the best managed company in Asia for three consecutive years now," Ramirez said.

He said instead of rewarding its workers, PLDT continues to make them suffer.

John Beato, national officer of the PLDT Union, said PLDT earned more than P17 billion for the first half of 2007 but, instead of giving bonuses to employees, it served termination papers.

"Last year, P26 million was given as bonus to managers and other officers but nothing for the rank-and-file," he said. "Instead they will be retrenched."

Escobar Pinzon, a radio technician who worked for about 14 years with the PLDT, is one of those who would lose their jobs.

"This (retrenchment) is their advance Christmas gift to the employees," he said. *Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

In Naga, traffic offenders may have to bleed

NAGA CITY—THE LOCAL government unit here passed an ordinance that literally bleeds traffic violators as punishment for their road offenses.

While they may pay fines, traffic violators would also be allowed to donate blood instead, according to this ordinance.

Ordinance No. 2007-021 of Naga City, passed on Aug. 13, declared the city's policy to mandate blood donation as punishment for violation of traffic rules and regulations.

Authored by Councilor Casper Nathan Sergio, Section 4 of the ordinance stated that the traffic violator has the option to donate blood or to pay the fine in cash.

If the violator opts to pay in cash, he has three days within which to settle the obligation but if he chooses to donate blood he has seven days to comply.

The ordinance defined the violations whereby blood donation would apply, that is, for traffic fines that range from P500 to P1,000.

Enforcement of the ordinance involves the city health office and city-owned hospital for them to screen apprehended traffic violators who opt to donate blood.

Should the violator qualify as a blood donor, he would be made to sign a document declaring his voluntary donation of blood to the Naga City Blood Bank.

The traffic offender would also be made to declare that his donation won't entitle him to being paid for his blood donation to the Naga City Blood Bank.

The ordinance sets at 500 cc per person the limit of the blood donation which would be coordinated with the Naga City Hospital, Public Safety Office and the traffic group under the office of the mayor.

Should the traffic offender's blood be found unsafe for medical use, he would instead be made to pay the fine in cash. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CASH OR BLOOD?
!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

ROUNDUP

Robbery suspect killed

MARILAO, Bulacan—A robbery suspect was shot and killed while his companion was wounded in a clash with policemen on MacArthur Highway in Barangay Saog here on Aug. 29.

Police said Leo Albano, 34, of Caloocan City, died of bullet wounds five hours after he was taken to a local hospital. Albano's companion, identified as Ronnie Capilitan, 25, of Valenzuela City, was confined to the same hospital guarded by policemen.

Police said an Indian businessman here identified Albano and Capilitan as the ones who took his motorcycle, money and mobile phone on Tuesday.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

Ex-boxing champ dies

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Former World Boxing Council Intercontinental Bantamweight champion Loremer Pontino, 40, died on Aug. 24.

Loremer's wife, Gemma, said it was the third time her husband suffered from a cardiac arrest.

Pontino carved his boxing career in the 1980s with a powerful punch. He won the WBC Intercontinental Bantamweight crown in Indonesia at age 21 in 1989.

Pontino retired from boxing in 1992 but Gemma said her husband did not manage to save anything from his income. She said she asked the city government for help in connection with her husband's death.

Aquiles Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

Village dad kills 'tanod'

MATANAO, Davao del Sur—A councilor of Barangay Kauswagan here shot and killed a village watchman and wounded a fellow village official on Aug. 29.

Senior Insp. Benito Recopuerto, chief of the 1103rd provincial mobile group, said village watchman Eduardo Dacula had an altercation with Barangay Councilor Eldie Recupelacion during a drinking session.

Recopuerto said Recupelacion drew a handgun and shot Dacula pointblank. Another councilor, Dioscoro Geral, tried to rescue Dacula but Recupelacion also shot him, Recopuerto said.

He said Geral suffered minor injuries while Dacula died on the spot. Recupelacion fled and is now wanted. The killing came as the Oct. 29 elections for village officials drew near.

Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

Chinese trader found dead

ILIGAN CITY—A Chinese businessman, who was reportedly kidnapped in Cagayan de Oro City on Aug. 24, was found dead here five days later.

Senior Supt. Virgilio Ranes told the INQUIRER that the body of Samson Jao was discovered by residents of Barangay Lanipao, a hinterland village about 15 km northwest of the city. He said Jao, 48, had a bullet wound in his head and his body bore multiple stab wounds.

Ranes said Jao was abducted on his way home from a mahjong session on Aug. 24. Since his disappearance, the kidnappers had not contacted the family, he said. Jao's body was brought to Cagayan de Oro City for autopsy.

Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao

Alleged drug pusher slain

DIGOS CITY—Suspected vigilantes gunned down an alleged drug pusher here on Aug. 30.

Chief Insp. Cesar Cabuhat, city police chief, said Ruel Balaga, 42, was resting in his motorcycle while waiting for passengers along Roxas Street when two men aboard another motorcycle pulled over.

One of the men shot Balaga several times even as he had already slumped on the ground, he said.

Witnesses, he said, heard the men saying that Balaga had been warned to stop his illegal activities but he allegedly did not listen.

Last year, about a dozen persons were also killed by suspected vigilantes here. Most of the victims include alleged drug pushers and users.

Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

TOM BALATAC (right) is the oldest Grade I pupil at age 24 in Kipalkuda Elementary School in New La Union, Maitum. PHOTO COURTESY BY SARANGANI INFORMATION OFFICE

'Lumad' kids get help in schooling

By Aquiles Zonio
Maitum, Sarangani Province

POVERTY AND AMBITION inspired a 24-year-old T'boli youth to enroll in Grade 1 last June.

His family owns several hectares of farm in the hinterland village of Kamaas, but this has not helped improve their living condition.

Tom Balatac, single and a T'boli, finally realized that only education can break their lingering poverty.

"Life is so hard when you are poor," Balatac admitted. The third in a brood of seven, Tom dreams of becoming a lawyer someday. The other Balatac siblings are just high school graduates.

He doesn't mind walking almost an hour daily from his home to Kipalkuda Elementary School in Barangay New La Union just to attend classes.

Feeding program

Three years ago, the school only had 90 students. But the school population posted a 220 percent increase to 349 this year due to the school feeding program that was started by an American missionary and his T'boli wife.

Daniel Lee Evans, a retired bank executive in San Francisco, California, USA, and his wife Aurea Desaville set up the Datu Wali Mission Foundation (DWMF) several years ago.

The mission's main goal is to help poor yet deserving tribal children avail of quality education.

The Evans put up a vegetable farm for the T'boli pupils' free lunch.

The former bank executive noted that the tribal pupils would go to school in the morning without breakfast. They have to walk four hours each way from their mountain villages daily "crossing forest, including seven rivers and streams" before finally reaching the school, wet and cold.

At lunch time, almost all the students begin the long, rigorous trek back home as they have no "*baon* (food pack)." This has resulted to absenteeism on the part of the students and demoralization on the part of teachers.

Classrooms were virtually empty during afternoon class sessions.

Through the school feeding program initiated by the Evans, the situation has changed.

Breaking the poverty cycle

Daniel, 54, believes education breaks the cycle of poverty.

The couple has led the program with the parents and teachers to provide lunch for schoolchildren during school days.

Parents alternately do the cooking to keep their children in school.

The foundation provides rice, clothing and transportation. Its truck, which the kids call their "school bus," transports the students from home to school and vice versa every day.

"It's amazing because, while the province has to extend the enrollment of some schools to get more enrollees, our school has more than doubled its population," Evans said.

"We can't help a lot of people, but, by coming to school, I hope that one day, some of our children will decide to come back as professionals and help their own people, and that's when we know we have succeeded," he said.

Top performers

The couple bared there's still a lot more to do to improve the condition and academic performance of Kipalkuda Elementary School.

This is the reason they are reaching out to the community and some friends in the US for help.

"Our challenge now is providing these children with more chairs and a place (classrooms) to study," Evans said.

The provincial and municipal governments donated school supplies and used clothing. Mayor Elsie Perret claimed that the municipal government has been sourcing out funds to help the school provide quality education to the tribal students.

It has delivered 16 additional desks but these were not enough.

Here, it's still a common sight to see four pupils sharing seats in one desk.

Two of Kipalkuda's dilapidated buildings need repair and only four teachers are serving the 349 students from Grade 1 to 6.

Perret said she had already asked the Department of Education to assign additional teachers in Kipalkuda.

Despite all these, the mayor claimed that the school is one of the three top performing schools in Maitum.

Teacher in charge Aurora Mirayo, also a T'boli, managed to convince the children to go to school.

"*Sabi ko walang mayaman dito sa inyo. Lahat mahirap. Ang tanging solusyon diyan ay pag-aaral. Kailangan mag-aral kayo. Walang bata o matanda sa pag-aaral hangga't gusto n'yong matuto* (I tell them there are no rich among them, all are poor. The only solution is education. They need to study. There is no young or old in studies, as long as they want to learn)," Mirayo said.

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Bagobo 'inabal' weaver gets recognized

By Orlando Dinoy
Bansalan,
Davao del Sur

THIS is how Monon starts her work.

SHE HAD been recognized in the United States as a rare artist. Even former President Bill Clinton could not help but admire her work.

At the National Museum in Manila, her picture and that of her works, along with her life story, are also prominently displayed.

But it took some years before her townmates in Bansalan, Davao del Sur realized that a gem of an artist has been living in their midst for so long now.

Salintan Monon, an 87-year-old Bagobo from Barangay Bitaug, has been weaving the *inabal* using indigenous materials for decades now.

Touted as the last Bagobo *inabal* weaver, Monon said her work entails patience and endurance. She gathers the abaca materials for her *inabal* and processes them to extract the fibers.

She then collects tree saps and mixes these to produce the colors that she uses.

On the average, Monon said one piece of her *inabal* takes her more than a month to finish.

Mayor Edwin Reyes said Monon will be given due recognition during the town's anniversary on Sept. 18.

He said they really did not forget Monon and that they take pride in having her for a townmate.

Monon said she was hoping that the recognition she receives from being an *inabal* weaver could someday financially help her family.

She remains in financial distress and still lives in the *nipa* hut she had been living in for years now.

Some businessmen even take advantage of her being unlettered by buying her products at very low prices.

Monon said she is forced to sell low because of the need to help her family.

Reyes said the local government would help look for businessmen who could help Monon in this aspect.

"Monon's unique talent and creativity should be given value. This could also put Bansalan in the map of the world. We are very happy that a talent like her comes from this place," he said.

ONE PIECE of her *inabal* takes Monon more than a month to finish. PHOTOS BY ORLANDO DINOY

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LITTLE EARTH ANGEL Mikaela Abuan (right) reads the story of two jeepney drivers who use alternative fuels to help save the environment during the INQUIRER Read-Along program. RODEL ROTONI

Kids learn all about environment at PDI

TWO JEEPNEY DRIVERS WHO LEARN about the benefits of alternative fuels. Three boys who thoughtlessly destroy a fairy's garden and then discover the importance of the environment.

These were the characters in the stories featured at yesterday's INQUIRER Read-Along session which focused on the environment.

Featured readers were the reigning Little Earth Angel of 2007, Denise Mikaela Abuan, and returning storytellers from the Sophia School in Meycauayan.

Abuan, a student at Roosevelt College in Montalban who turned 11 in May, read "Hari ng Kalsada," a brainchild of the Sustainable Energy Development Program (SEDP) of the US Agency for International Development and US Department of Energy.

Abuan said she believed even children her age could help the country in small ways.

"We can plant trees [and] separate biodegradable waste from non-biodegradables," she said with a shy smile.

The Little Earth Angel pageant is part of the Miss Earth Foundation activities and involves children aged 7 to 10.

Storytellers from Sophia School, returning for the third time to the INQUIRER Read-Along, read Rene Villanueva's "Si Emmang Engkantada at ang Tatlong Haragan" (Emma the Enchantress and the Three Bums).

Chamber theater

Teachers Ann Abacan, Doray Carable, Ellie Carable, Lorna Mendoza and Osang de la Vega used the chamber theater format to bring the story of three wayward-boys-turned-environment-lovers to life.

Chamber theater is a method of adapting literary works to the stage with minimal sets. In the Sophia School's production, each teacher read the part of a character.

After the reading, Teacher Ann asked the children: "Do we need a fairy to teach us how to take care of our environment?" to which the children replied a resounding, "No."

"We choose stories where children will learn a lesson. In this case, the lesson is helping the environment, which people seem to have forgotten," said Teacher Osang.

"Hari ng Kalsada," written by Dhee Paredes, an information, education and communication specialist at the SEDP, was originally in English and was first read by US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney during the National Earth Day celebration on April 20. It was translated into Filipino by Paredes herself to better capture the hearts of Filipino children.

Thinking that a more visual medium would be more effective, Paredes decided to turn the story into a comic book, with her brother-in-law, Radel Paredes, a columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's sister publication, the Cebu Daily News, doing the illustrations. A cinema ad version of the story will be launched by Artistshop Co. Inc. in October. TV commercials and coloring books based on the story are in the pipeline.

Younger audiences

Paredes said their organization decided to tap younger audiences through INQUIRER Read-Along and other media in order to better disseminate information about biofuels and environment protection to the younger generation.

"It is important that children understand what biofuels are for," said Paredes.

Coco-biodiesel, or coconut methyl ester (CME), and ethanol are considered to be ecologically benign fuels.

The Biofuels Act of 2006, passed in January 12 this year, provides that at least 1 percent of biodiesel be mixed with the diesel fuel sold in the country.

Other contributors to the program were Krispy Kreme donuts and Hands On Manila.

The INQUIRER Read-Along program, which aims to impart the love of reading to children aged 7 to 13, is held on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at the INQUIRER main office on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City.

The next session will be on Sept. 22 and will feature Ms Philippines-Earth 2007 Jean Harn and Ms Earth-Water 2006 Catherine Untalan, also of SEDP.

Interested parties may call Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 897-8808, local 329. Those interested in donating books for the program may e-mail inquirer-readalong@inquirer.com.ph. *Eliza Victoria, Inquirer Research*

43 years of aiding poor kids

THE TAHANAN Outreach Project and Services–Justice Corazon Juliano Agrava Youth Center will celebrate its 43rd anniversary on Sept. 10 with Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim as guest of honor.

The day-long celebration will begin with a thanksgiving Mass.

Ester Sison Cruz, TOPS president, will give the welcome remarks while chair Justice Carol Griño Aquino will introduce Lim.

TOPS was founded by Justice Corazon Agrava in 1964 to minister to street children and their families.

Members also help disadvantaged youth and minor offenders in trouble with the law.

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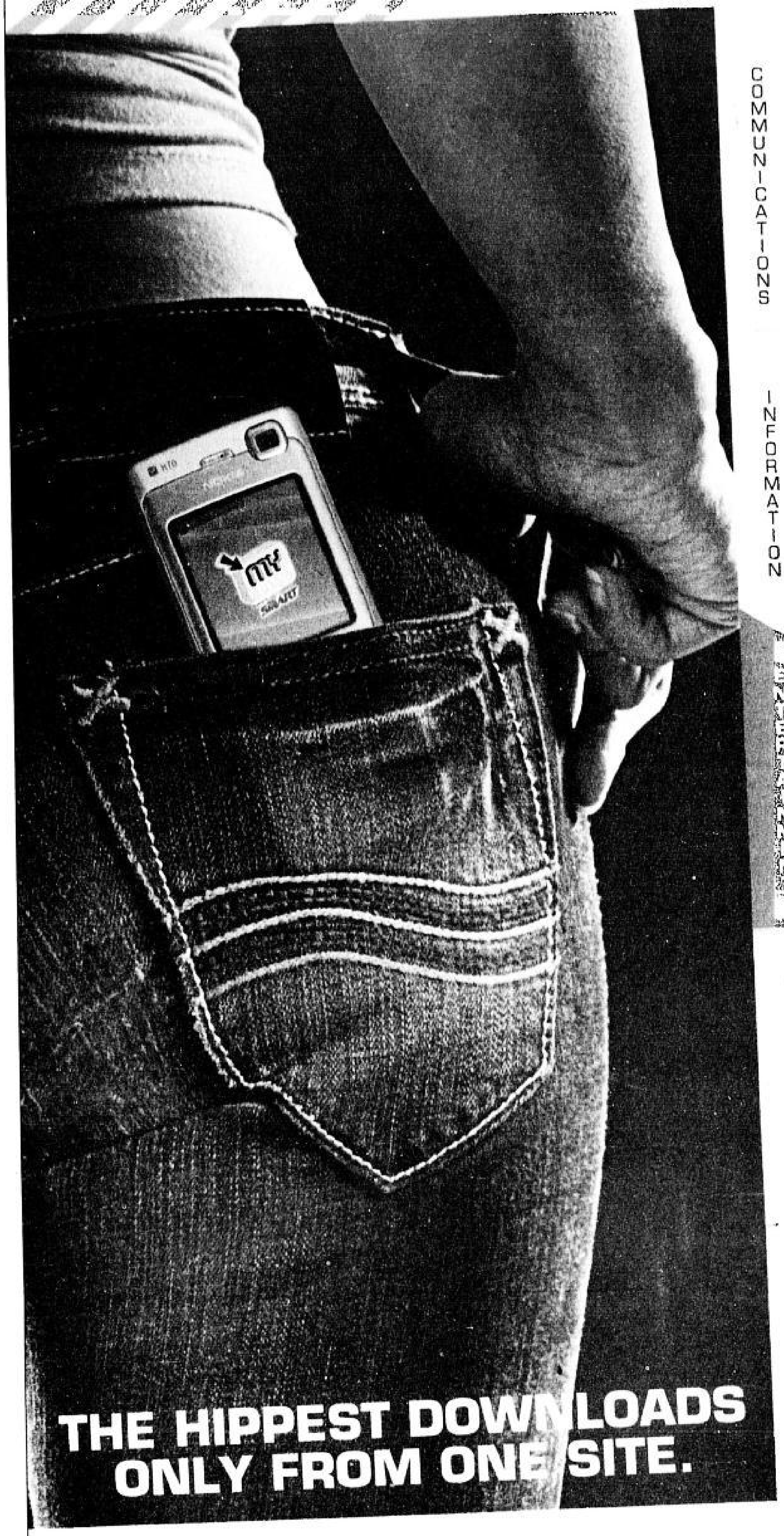

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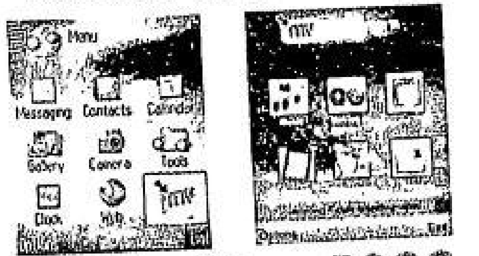

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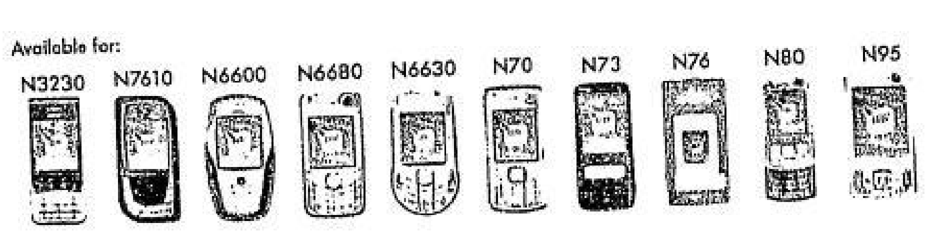

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Environmental group wants to make Metro safe for fireflies again

'Fireflies thrive when the air and water are clean. They are the first to go if there is pollution'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FOR THE FIREFLY BRIGADE, THERE IS hope that the smog-choked air of Edsa can be cleaned up and Filipinos can be weaned from their dependence on motorized vehicles.

This group of campaigners for the environment believes that the most effective way to clean up the air in the metropolis is by making bicycles the primary mode of transportation.

"It's a paradox," Firefly Brigade incorporator and former president Joaquin "Jack" Yabut admitted. "The air is polluted so why should you ride on a bike? But that is precisely why we should ride on bikes, because there is pollution."

"We (bicycle riders) are a drop in the bucket but the bucket will not be filled without a drop. It is really a choice you make," said Yabut.

When they were setting up the Firefly Brigade, Yabut said they found fireflies a good symbol for their cause. "Fireflies thrive when the environment is clean and when the water is clean. Once there is pollution, the fireflies are the first to disappear. There are hardly fireflies now in Metro Manila. We want the fireflies to come back," he pointed out.

JOAQUIN "Jack" Yabut, Firefly Brigade incorporator, takes his bike on a 15-kilometer trip thrice a week, riding from Marikina City to E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

He said that it was Kathy Sta. Ana, a visual artist and teacher, who came up with the idea of advancing environmental protection by promoting the use of bicycles. In 1999, friends helped her organize the first "Tour of the Fireflies" and eventually, the brigade was born.

With 11 other people, including Yabut, the Firefly Brigade was registered as a nonstock, nonprofit organization with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Starting with the annual fireflies tour, the brigade now has other projects: The Recycle a Bicycle (RAB) and Kitang-Kita ang Bisikleta (KKB), among others.

"Under the RAB, we accept donations of money or bicycle parts and then we assemble or recondition bicycles and donate them to (poor but) worthy users," Yabut said as he added with a laugh, "We are practically the equivalent of Gawad Kalinga, but on a smaller scale."

But he lamented that owners of bicycles usually do not want to get rid of their old ones. "Often, the bicycle parts we receive are no longer usable and are just junk because they are rusty," he said.

On the other hand, the KKB project focuses on safety awareness among bicycle riders. "We try to mobilize resources so we can provide safety equipment, vests, lights and helmets to others," Yabut said.

Recently, the brigade conducted bike clinics at the Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City, the first commercial center to set up bicycle lanes and bicycle racks for riders and enthusiasts.

The clinics provided basic training on how to survive Metro Manila's traffic and carbon monoxide through "efficient cycling." It also identified the different routes bike users can safely use.

"It is not exactly smart to bike along a major thoroughfare during rush hour. You would only get everything from dust to carbon monoxide. It is more pleasant, less polluted if you take alternate bike routes. You do not always have to pass through Edsa unless you are in a hurry, with a prayer and hopefully with a gas mask," Yabut said.

The main goal of the clinic, he added, was to teach "basic and practical skills in bicycle riding so people will discover and appreciate the joy of cycling and realize it is more efficient and safe. We teach that cycling can be as effortless as walking."

According to him, that the clinic was more of an experiment to encourage malls and property developers to become "bicycle-friendly" since these were areas frequented by people.

"So it is important for the malls to become bicycle-friendly. If they have 'green' practices, they might as well do it all the way," he said.

EASTWOOD City in Libis, Quezon City is the first biker-friendly commercial center with its bike lanes and bike racks. JOAN BONDOC

Yabut, the theater center director of the Philippine Educational Theater Association, teaches by example. Thrice a week, he bikes from Marikina City to E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City, a 15-kilometer trip that takes him 45 minutes.

"I save P100 a day doing this. I try to ride a bicycle three times a week. So I save at least P300 a week," he said.

Yabut urged local governments to follow the example of Marikina City which established a bikeways office and was close to completing its bike lanes project.

"We have to change the mind set of our traffic and transportation planners by incorporating mass transportation and nonmotorized vehicles," he said as he bewailed the attitude of people who believe that bicycles are a primitive means of transportation meant only for underdeveloped countries.

Yabut pointed out that several countries in Europe, North America and South America were encouraging the use of bicycles to reduce pollution.

The proliferation of motorcycles, however, has set back the campaign to promote bicycles, he said. Although some new engines were more efficient and caused less pollution, the fact remained that motorcycles were adding to the congestion in thoroughfares, he added.

"The cheaper prices of motorcycles have increased the sales of this form of transport. But it is not the environment that benefits but the automotive industry," Yabut said.

But he remains hopeful that if people were to turn to bicycles, the air in Metro Manila would gradually improve and perhaps, in time, the fireflies would return to the metropolis.

Smoke-free QC park a 'circle of wellness'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WITH THE DECLARATION of a total ban on smoking and the sale of cigarettes in the area, the Quezon Memorial Circle is now truly a "circle of wellness."

Quezon City Parks Development Foundation Inc. (QCPDFI) president Charito Planas said it was time for the park to become "smoke-free" as it promotes full wellness by offering classes in aerobics, dance taebo, aerosport, dancercise, grind workout, taichi, Pilates, belly dancing, ballroom and line dancing. There are also regular seminars on health and livelihood.

Planas said people who smoke should stop for both health and financial reasons. "A smoker who quits smoking can save up to P45 a day which is equivalent to more than P1,300 a month. With P45, you can already buy a kilo of rice for the day," she said.

She stressed that cigarette vendors can sell other goods and earn more rather than peddle death on a stick.

The formal launch of the smoke-free park was held recently, coinciding with the 19th founding anniversary of the QCPDFI. It was supported by the Department of Health, the Lung Center of the Philippines, and the Quezon City government.

The highlight of the event was a parade where participants included QCMC employees, concessionaire workers, senior citizens and members of civic and fitness groups. Also present were the two "Yosi Kadiri" mascots portraying the ill-effects of smoking.

In a forum during the launch, Dr. Asuncion Anden, DOH National Capital Region director, said that only 35 percent of Filipinos smoke while the rest are passive smokers.

I will STO SMOKIN
I DONT SMOKE!
AYAW NAMING MANIGARILYO!!
VENDORS
I DONT SMOKE
AYAW NAMIN MANIGARILYO
YOSI KADIRI
AYAW NAMING MANIGARILYO!!!
I DONT SMOKE!
AYAW NAMING MANIGARILYO!
Q.C. PARKS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
MAS MALUSOG, WALANG GASTOS
NO SMOKING Inside CIRCLE PARK
·DOH ·Q.C.GOVT. ·LUNG CENTER

QUEZON City government officials and workers, Quezon City Memorial Circle employees, senior citizens, QC Parks Development Foundation Inc. president Charito Planas and the "Yosi Kadiri" mascots head the parade to celebrate the recent launching of the park as a smoke-free area. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"There is telling evidence that secondhand smoke affects everyone, not only those who smoke. So let us send a message to smokers that we do not want their smoke and we want the air that we breathe to be clean," Anden said.

She urged the Quezon City government to strictly implement Republic Act No. 9211 or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 which bans or prohibits smoking in all mass transportation facilities, public utility vehicles and public places, including schools, recreational facilities and areas frequented by children as well as hospitals, clinics, laboratories and restaurants.

Under the law, violators will be fined between P500 and P400,000 and face imprisonment of 30 days up to three years, depending on the gravity of the offense.

Planas said that apart from declaring the Quezon Memorial Circle a smoke-free park, the QCPDFI will sponsor regular seminars to be conducted by Dr. Luisito Idolor of the Lung Center of the Philippines. The seminars, to be held every Friday at 4 p.m., will offer suggestions on how to quit smoking and discuss the adverse effects of cigarettes.

"IF WE can have more jobs here, if only to prevent the women from going abroad. Maybe it's not yet obvious, but soon we'll suffer the social cost of our absent parents. I'm more worried about that."

TESSIE ORETA, *March 2007*

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

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Text us your feedback:
inquirer gp name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

'The Learning' from Bogo to Baltimore of a Cebuana teacher: Give it your best shot

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FILIPINO TEACHER DOROTEA GODINEZ, HER THICK CEBUANO accent dripping like honey, interrogates a student, an African-American teener who got knocked up: "Is the father your boyfriend?" The girl shakes her head. "He's just my friend."

GODINEZ: It changed my life

Dorotea is stunned: "Do you love your friend?"

The girl laughs.

That was one of the key scenes in Filipino-American filmmaker Ramona Diaz's documentary "The Learning," which focuses on a group of Filipino teachers who have moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to work in inner-city schools.

The cultural difference between Dorotea and her pregnant student is startling, but also stunning is Dorotea's maternal rapport with her young wards, comments Tony Gloria, head of Unitel, producer of the documentary.

Dorotea, who vacationed in her hometown of Bogo, Cebu recently, tells the INQUIRER via e-mail: "I love my students as if they are my own children." A vivid example was the preggy teenager, she relates. "It was the student herself who confided in me about her condition. I asked about her plans."

Bridges cultural divide

"I also assured her that, at that moment, I wasn't only her adviser; I was also her mother."

She admits that bridging the cultural divide was a mighty challenge. "Giving my best is sometimes not enough," she notes.

"That is why I often sing a line from [the James Ingram] song ["Just Once"] to them: 'I did my best, but I guess my best wasn't good enough.' Now, my students sing that song with me!" She has also taught her predominantly African-American students to sing "Pen Pen de Sarapen" and other Filipino folk songs.

2nd batch of recruits

A 24-year teaching veteran in the Philippines, Dorotea was among the second batch of teachers recruited by the Baltimore public school system, to work in the United States. She left for the US on July 16, 2006 and, after a year, she had the chance to visit her family in Bogo during the summer vacation.

"I am at present employed as a Science teacher at the Renaissance Academy in Baltimore," she relates. "I taught Issues and Physical Sciences (IAPS) to 9th graders last year."

She adds that she had four Science loads, an English independent study load, as well as one advisory load in the last school year.

Her work begins at 8:30 in the morning and ends at 3:50 in the afternoon, Mondays to Fridays. "Weekends, we are free from work," she says. "I usually just stay at home." The only breaks from routine are intermittent shopping trips to the mall, especially when there's a sale.

"To fill up the *balikbayan* box for the family," she quips.

Her children's ages range from 20 to 5 and she admits that she missed them terribly during her year-long stay in the US. Thank heavens for "the gadgets that make communication" between people in different time zones possible, she exclaims. "I call my husband almost every night."

Ramona filmed her homecoming in Bogo, where she also had the chance to meet up with former students in Banban National High School. "I used to joke with my students that whenever I was absent from class, it was because I was shooting a movie. Little did I know that it would come true! In the wink of an eye, Dorotea became an *artista* (actress)!"

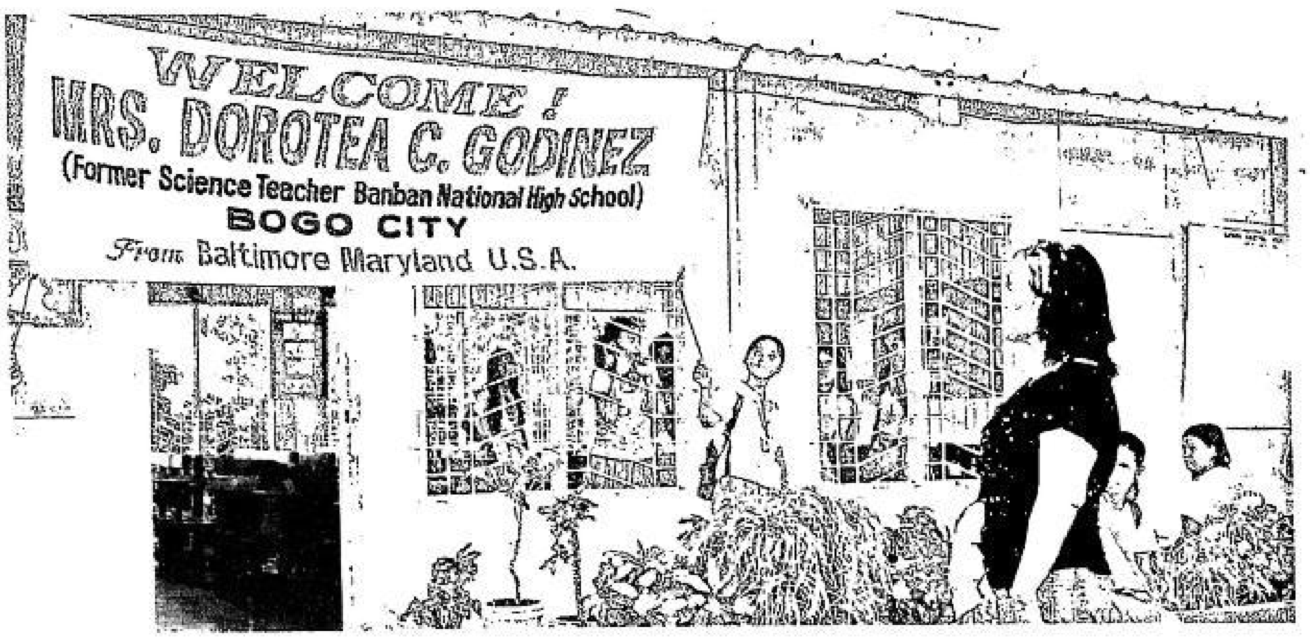
She describes filming as "memorable, Ms Ramona brought us to places I've only seen in movies or on TV … like Washington DC and New York." Diaz recalls: "We went pumpkin picking in the fall and snowboarding in the winter." She advises other Filipinos who dream of working abroad not to quit. "Go for it! But be humble, hardworking and flexible. Above all, hold on to God."

'I did my best'

In sum, she says her stay in Baltimore has had its share of ups and downs. "Working abroad has changed my life," she points out. "It has allowed me to experience the American way of life. It has made me stronger, more persistent, giving and patient." It was also a big boost financially, she admits with candor.

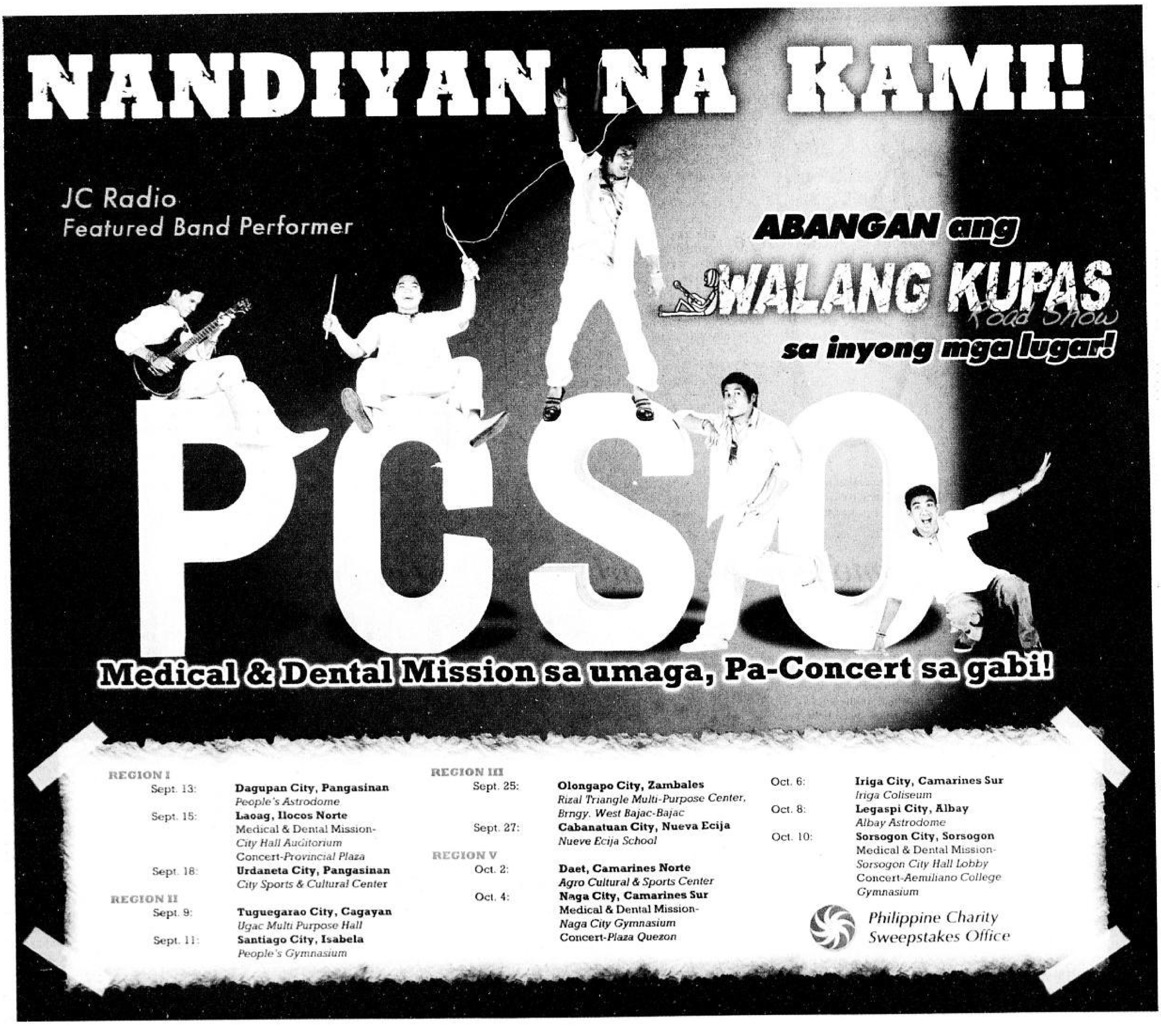
The only down side is when she fails "to meet some of my expectations" in the classroom.

"It's because my students are who they are and I am who I am," she affirms. "At least, I can console myself with the fact that I gave it my best shot." As the song goes: "I did my best … "


WELCOME !
MRS. DOROTEA C. GODINEZ
(Former Science Teacher Banban National High School)
BOGO CITY
From Baltimore Maryland U.S.A.

GODINEZ comes home to a grand welcome from her former school during her vacation last month in her hometown in Cebu.

CINEDIAZ, INC.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JC Radio
Featured Band Performer

ABANGAN ang WALANG KUPAS Road Show sa inyong mga lugar!

PCSO

Medical & Dental Mission sa umaga, Pa-Concert sa gabi!

REGION I
Sept. 13: **Dagupan City, Pangasinan** *People's Astrodome*
Sept. 15: **Laoag, Ilocos Norte** Medical & Dental Mission-*City Hall Auditorium* Concert-*Provincial Plaza*
Sept. 18: **Urdaneta City, Pangasinan** *City Sports & Cultural Center*

REGION II
Sept. 9: **Tuguegarao City, Cagayan** *Ugac Multi Purpose Hall*
Sept. 11: **Santiago City, Isabela** *People's Gymnasium*

REGION III
Sept. 25: **Olongapo City, Zambales** *Rizal Triangle Multi-Purpose Center, Brngy. West Bajac-Bajac*
Sept. 27: **Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija** *Nueve Ecija School*

REGION V
Oct. 2: **Daet, Camarines Norte** *Agro Cultural & Sports Center*
Oct. 4: **Naga City, Camarines Sur** Medical & Dental Mission-*Naga City Gymnasium* Concert-*Plaza Quezon*
Oct. 6: **Iriga City, Camarines Sur** *Iriga Coliseum*
Oct. 8: **Legaspi City, Albay** *Albay Astrodome*
Oct. 10: **Sorsogon City, Sorsogon** Medical & Dental Mission-*Sorsogon City Hall Lobby* Concert-*Aemiliano College Gymnasium*

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

'Kumustahan' adds trade to concert series of music, laughter

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO BRING music and comic relief to Pinoys abroad. Making their hard-earned money grow is as important.

This is why "Kumustahan," originally only a series of concerts featuring Pinoy artists, will add a trade component in their visits around the world. Here, they would be bringing business opportunities abroad to help overseas Filipino workers increase their earnings.

"Instead of just sending money to their loved ones, we want to offer our *kababayans* investment opportunities where they can see their money grow through their own businesses," said Isabel Bautista, producer of the entertainment and trade tour.

The trade component would be held a day before or after each concert date, where interested Filipino organization leaders would be invited to meet with a pool of business leaders offering their enterprises for franchising in the Philippines. The leaders of the organizations are, in turn, expected to disseminate the information to their colleagues.

More useful

Bautista said they wanted to focus first on the small and medium enterprises. "The businesses for franchise would require an investment of only P100,000 and below," Bautista told the INQUIRER in an interview. This way, she said, more people would be able to avail themselves of the chance to have their own franchise.

Though the list of the businesses that will be included in the trade tour is still being finalized, Bautista said it would include water- and ink-refilling stations, cell phone reloading centers, and *sago* and *gulaman* stalls, among others. She added there's even a real estate company which had expressed interest in joining the trade tour.

BAUTISTA: New tour organizer

VALDES: New concert member

Since last year, Kumustahan has been staging a successful run of shows in Europe, the Asia-Pacific, the US, and Middle East countries. Its primary purpose is to bring a "sense of home" to the overseas Filipinos who have not gone back to the Philippines for a while.

"We felt we needed to do more to help the Filipino community abroad." Bautista said, adding they are now in talks with the Department of Trade and Industry which will help them organize the trade tour. "We wanted to be more useful to them."

This trade component of the concert series will be launched in October during the European leg of this year's Kumustahan shows which will be top-billed by comedienne Mitch Valdes, singer Hajji Alejandro, and singer-actress Zsa Zsa Padilla.

Meet and greet

Bautista also said the trade component of the concert series would also be a chance for the Kumustahan artists to mingle with Pinoys, as they will be present during the activity. "We want an informal 'meet and greet' setting where everyone can freely talk and mingle because it is during these times where the best conversations happen."

Because Kumustahan shows attract people, Bautista said they are actually bringing the overseas workers closer to business opportunities they would normally either have missed or paid much attention to. "We will bridge the OFWs and the business opportunities together," she said.

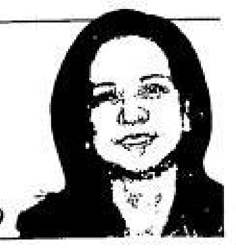
The inspiration behind this kind of activity, Bautista said, is the Pinoys abroad. She said that during their Kumustahan shows last year, the Filipinos she got to talk with off stage often inquired about what is now "in" in the country. She remembered the Filipinos telling her that they have the money to start their own businesses but have no idea what to put up or how to even get started.

For inquiries, please call Sony at 814-0227.

How to return to the United States after deportation

IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco



AFTER THE TRAGIC 9/11, THE enforcement of immigration laws against non citizens has never been as restrictive.

A couple of years back, I realized that hundreds of Filipino deportees were transported back to the Philippines by the US Department of Homeland Security through chartered planes for "expediency" reasons.

Deportation is a drastic measure that has harsh consequences to the deportees and may mean loss of family, friend and livelihood especially to those who have resided for a long period of time in the US.

One of those deported during the height of immigration enforcement was a young single parent, Maria.

The deported mother Maria is an adopted child of Gloria, a US citizen. Gloria is the maternal grandmother of Maria who petitioned her for adoption when Maria was below 16 years old. Maria entered the United States based on the petition of her adoptive parent.

When Maria was 18 years old, she worked for a department store in the San Francisco Bay Area and was involved in the illegal use of credit card. She was also arrested for theft and receipt of stolen property. Maria was taken to court and was convicted of the charges but was asked to do community service and was on probation for two years.

During her probation, Maria worked for a retail discount store where most of the items were sold at very low prices. Maria was again caught by the manager stealing several store items worth $100. This time Maria was incarcerated and after she pleaded guilty, she was brought to deportation proceedings. Maria was classified as removable based on her crimes which were categorized as crimes of moral turpitude and were committed within five years from her entry in the US as a green card holder.

A deportation/removal order was issued by the immigration judge, and Maria was forced to leave the United States.

At the time of her hearing, Maria had no defense that would have prevented her from being deported/removed because she has not been residing in the US for more than five years yet. Her US citizen boyfriend only agreed to marry Maria after she was deported. He, then, went to the Philippines to marry her. Maria left a 2-year-old child in the US under the care of her adoptive parent. Subsequently, a petition was then to be filed by her US citizen husband. This petition was eventually approved and Maria now wishes to return to the US. What should Maria do in order that she may return to the US to be with her husband and child?

There are statutory bars to entering the US after deportation. In 1996, the US Congress created a 10-year bar to admissibility for non citizens ordered removed or deported. This 10-year bar also applies to those who departed while an order of removal is outstanding.

For those who were sent back or asked to return to their country of origin at the port of entry or those "airport to airport" cases, there is a five-year bar to admissibility.

There is a 20-year bar for second removal.

For those who were deported because of aggravated felony, the bar is permanent.

These bars can be waived if the immigration agency grants a reapplication for admission. This means that the deportee may still reenter the US after a waiver is filed and granted.

For those who are within the statutory bars, they may apply for re-admission to the US if they are otherwise eligible for a visa. They may file for permission to reapply for admission. The grant of permission to reapply removes inadmissibility resulting from a prior deportation.

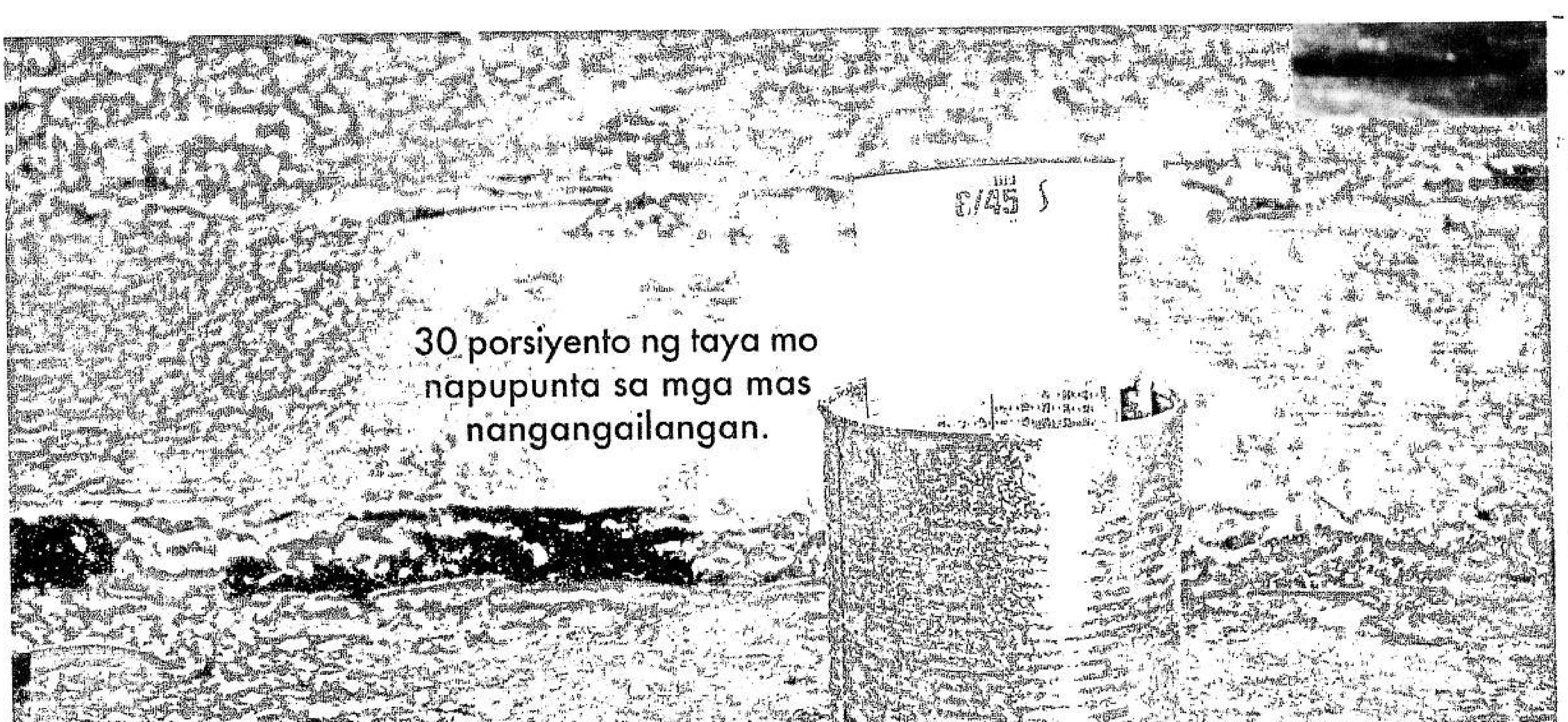
Permission to reapply is a discretionary remedy granted to the deportee and is subject to review on the very high standard of arbitrariness. Immigration officers evaluate cases on a balancing test and must review all of the factors presented by the parties.

Among the factors that are considered in deciding whether to grant the permission to be readmitted are: the basis for deportation; recency of deportation; length of residence in the US; the applicant's moral character; applicant's respect for law and order; evidence of reformation and rehabilitation; applicant's family responsibilities; any admissibility under other sections of law; hardship to the applicant and others and the need for the applicant's services in the US.

In the case of Maria, she needs to file for an application for permission to reapply on Form 212 with supporting document and prescribed fees. She also needs to file for a Form 601 with supporting documents to waive her grounds for inadmissibility.

While it may be easy to categorize those who have been forced to leave the US as deportation cases, it is important to understand that each deportation case is different. Whether or not the permission to reapply for admission is granted is matter of assessing the various circumstances attendant to a specific case. A careful analysis of each case must be taken before any further steps are taken to reapply for admission.

(IMFO stands for Immigration Information. A lawyer, Tancinco may be reached at law@tancinco.com or 887-7177).



Sa ika-73 taong kaarawan ng PCSO, patuloy ang paninilbihan sa taumbayan sa ngalan ng kawanggawa.

Ang sari-saring PCSO Lotto games ang daan para makatulong sa kapus-palad at mga may sakit nating kababayan. Mula 1997, kayo po ay nakapag-ambag ng 1.7 bilyong piso at umakyat sa 2 bilyon noong 2001. Nitong nakaraang taon ang pondo sa kawanggawa ay umabot na sa halagang 4 bilyong piso. Samantala ang mga tagapagtangkilik ng Small Town Lottery ay nag-ambag ng mahigit sa 470 milyong piso mula nang ilunsad ito dalawang taon na ang nakararaan.

Sa ngalan ng aming mga libo-libong pasyenteng inyong natulungan mula sa pagtangkilik sa lotto, maraming salamat po, Nawa y manatiling bukas ang inyong mga palad sa pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan.

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
Walang Kupas

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bin Laden mocks US as weak in new video

WASHINGTON—ELUSIVE AL-QAIDA CHIEF Osama bin Laden mocked the United States as "weak" and vowed to escalate fighting in Iraq in a new video, his first such appearance in nearly three years.

The al-Qaida leader discussed current events but issued no direct threats in the video, released Friday. His appearance appeared to be timed to mark the upcoming sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington.

Bin Laden appeared with his beard trimmed and apparently dyed black to hide streaks of gray seen in previous footage.

There are two ways to end the Iraq war, Bin Laden said, according to a transcript released by the US-based Site Intelligence Group which monitors Islamic militant websites.

"The first is from our side, and it is to continue to escalate the killing and fighting against you," said Bin Laden.

The second is to do away with the US democratic system of government, which he said merely serves the interests of major corporations.

In the rambling message, Bin Laden attacked US President George W. Bush, the US neoconservative thinkers that support him and global corporations for fomenting the Iraq war. He also attacked the US Democratic Party, which he claimed has done little to halt the war, made references to global capitalism and climate change, and invited Americans to embrace Islam.

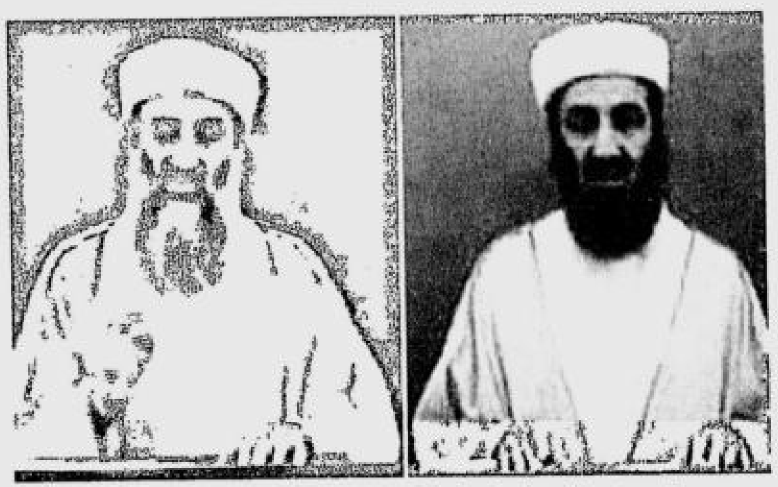
US intelligence agencies confirmed the tape's authenticity. "I think people are pretty confident it is his voice," said a US intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The tape was probably produced as recently as early August because of a reference to the 62nd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, the official said.

It was Bin Laden's first such appearance since October 2004, when he threatened new attacks against the United States in a video just days before US presidential election.

Bush used the tape to bolster the case for continued US military presence in Iraq.

"The tape is a reminder about the dangerous world in which we live," said Bush, who was attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit Sydney. *AFP*



DYED-IN-THE-WOOL TERRORIST: Bin Laden in videotape frame grab taken on Oct. 29, 2004, (left) and in a still photo (right) provided by the Site Intelligence Group on Sept. 7, 2007, as the al-Qaida chief delivers a speech at an unidentified time and place. AFP

Pope defends Catholicism in Austria

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—POPE BENEDICT XVI confronted the shadows of Europe's past on Friday, praying at a Holocaust memorial here, as he spoke with worry about its future.

Europe, he said, may extinguish itself, in numbers and spirit, if it embraces abortion and rejects Christianity, which he said "profoundly shaped the continent."

"It should be everyone's concern to ensure that the day will never come when only its stones speak of Christianity," the Pope said, at the start of a three-day visit here. "An Austria without a vibrant Christian faith would no longer be Austria."

But the 80-year-old Pope's vigorous defense of Catholicism—delivered in a slightly hoarse voice because of what the Vatican said was a sore throat—may not be, at the moment, a popular stand in Austria.

Pope Benedict arrived here, in the chill and rain on his seventh trip outside Italy, at a time of deep and lingering anger at the once-powerful Austrian church, with tens of thousands leaving the faith after two high-profile sex scandals. More broadly, the faith has steadily declined in a Europe often at odds with church positions on abortion, contraception and homosexuality. *NYT*

MOURNING AND HOMAGE TO A GREAT TENOR
People pay their homage to late Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti in Modena's Duomo where he lies in state Sept. 7. The legendary tenor died Sept. 6 at his home in Italy aged 71, plunging the opera world into mourning for a singer whose crossover appeal made him a global superstar. AFP

US court fines Iran $2.65B for 'heinous' 1983 Lebanon attack

WASHINGTON—A US FEDERAL JUDGE on Friday ordered Iran to pay $2.65 billion to families of 241 soldiers killed in the 1983 bombing of a Marine barracks in Beirut, calling his ruling a warning that attacks on US citizens will not be tolerated.

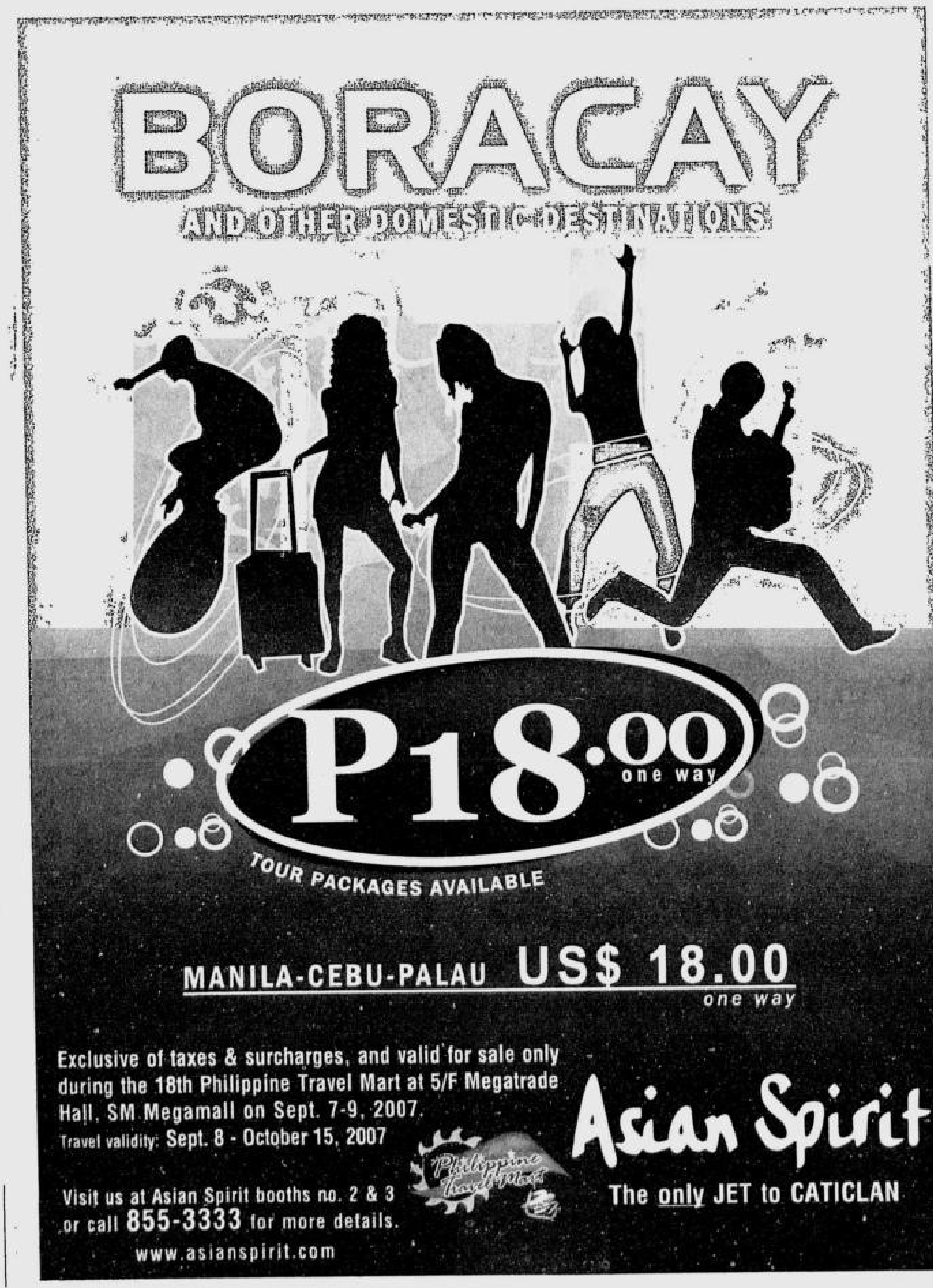
Judge Royce Lamberth said the award "may be the largest ever entered by a court of the United States against a foreign nation."

Expressing admiration for the fallen soldiers and sympathy for their families, Lamberth issued his decision after considering claims by 1,000 family members and a small number of survivors.

"The court hopes that this extremely sizeable judgment will serve to aid in the healing process for these plaintiffs, and simultaneously sound an alarm to the defendants that their unlawful attacks on our citizens will not be tolerated," he wrote in his ruling from a federal court in Washington DC.

A previous court in 2003 held that Iran provided financial and logistical help for the lethal 1983 attack carried out by the militant Shiite group Hezbollah.

Families in the case welcomed the ruling. *AFP*



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Police believe ma accidentally killed Maddie

PORTIMAO, PORTUGAL—PORTUGUESE police believe the mother of missing British girl Madeleine McCann accidentally killed her and on Friday they made her a formal suspect in the case, a family spokesperson said.

KATE McCann AP

"She is suspected of accidentally killing her daughter," spokesperson David Hughes told AFP as he announced the formal suspect move—the latest twist in a case that has generated headlines worldwide.

Police also said the father of "Maddie" Gerry McCann is a suspect in their investigation on Friday, their lawyer said after the parents were questioned for hours by police.

A spokesperson for Kate and Gerry McCann, who had gained widespread sympathy in Europe for their plight, said they were innocent and that, in naming them as suspects, police were not focusing on finding Madeleine.

"Today, Kate and Gerry McCann have both been declared 'arguidos,'" their lawyer, Carlos Pinto de Abreu, told reporters using the Portuguese word for suspect.

"No charges were brought against them," he said, adding that there were no conditions established by the police on them as suspects. "The investigation continues."

Gerry McCann left the police station around midnight, having arrived for questioning just after his wife left in the afternoon. Kate was also questioned for about 11 hours on Thursday.

Police could not be reached to comment on the naming of Gerry as a suspect but said earlier they had identified a new suspect in their investigation, which friends said was Kate.

"Kate knows it's possible that she could get arrested," Justine McGuinness, a spokesperson for the McCanns, said before the police announcement. *AFP, Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

San Diego church in $198-M payout to sex abuse victims

LOS ANGELES—The Roman Catholic Church in San Diego will pay nearly $200 million to 144 victims of sexual abuse by priests, the second biggest payout of its kind in US history, lawyers said Friday. Lawyers for the dioceses of San Diego and San Bernardino and the victims thrashed out the $198.1-million settlement after protracted negotiations at the city's federal courthouse. Each victim will receive an average of $1.3 million, lawyers said in announcing the deal, which comes just two months after the Los Angeles diocese agreed to a record $660-million settlement to people who suffered abuse. ***AFP***

Putin, Bush fail to break missile defense tension

SYDNEY—US President George W. Bush and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin failed to make clear progress in talks Friday to defuse tensions over US missile defense plans that have angered Moscow. The presidents met at a hotel in Sydney as 21 nations attending an Asia Pacific summit here agreed on a common statement on climate change after intense wrangling between rich and emerging nations, a source at the talks said. Visibly grim after their hour-long meeting, Putin said the talks had been "above all related to missile defense." But neither man gave any hint of coming any nearer on Washington's plans to deploy a missile shield in Central Europe which have provoked an increasingly tense standoff between the two sides. The Russian leader said experts from both sides would meet again soon to inspect a Russian radar station in Azerbaijan that Moscow has proposed using as an alternative to the Central Europe sites. ***AFP***

Fugitive Democratic fundraiser is apprehended and ailing

YUNG Yuen "Norman" Hsu, the Democratic fundraiser whose 15-year fugitive odyssey began and ended with skipped court dates and cut a trail of fraud, tainted donations and blind-sided candidates, seemed to be at the end of his rope on Friday, hospitalized under guard in Colorado. The 56-year-old Hong Kong businessman, who raised large sums for presidential races and many major political figures, who reveled in circles of power—all while on the run from a three-year prison term—was at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction after being taken ill off a Denver-bound Amtrak train Thursday. ***NYT***

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday
SPORTS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Henin completes sweep of Williamses /A24

VICMEL Epres of UP tries to grab the loose ball against Joel Canizares (left) and Elmer Espiritu of UE. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Giants bring down Kings in preseason tiff

By Musong R. Castillo

CAVITE CITY—JAMES YAP SCORED 22 points and Kerby Raymundo added 19 as Purefoods polished off Barangay Ginebra with one great run in the stretch for a 97-87 decision at the start of the PBA preseason tournament at the SSC gym here last night.

Yap, the Most Valuable Player two years ago, touched off and capped a telling 11-1 run in the stretch that made it 85-71 for the Tender Juicy Giants.

That spelled the end for the Gin Kings, who were led by Sunday Salvacion's 18 and Billy Mamaril's 15.

Fil-Americans Eric Menk and Raffy Reavis and National Team guards Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand did not suit up for the Kings.

Meanwhile, Alaska has reportedly told handlers of burly center-forward Ken Bono "not to worry" even if negotiations for the former Adamson star have yet to formally start.

Picked sixth overall in the recent draft despite possessing solid credentials both in the collegiate and commercial leagues, the 6-foot-5 Bono has started practicing with the Aces even without a pact since last Thursday.

Coach Tim Cone had labeled Bono as "the steal of the draft" and told the INQUIRER earlier that he does not see any problems when contract negotiations get under way.

The scores:

PUREFOODS 97—Yap 22, Raymundo 19, Simon 17, Pingris 9, Adducul 6, Salvador 6, Lanete 5, Castillo 4, Larong 3, Artadi 0, Sanz 0, Yee 0.

GINEBRA 87—Salvacion 18, Mamaril 15, Escalona 13, Santos 11, Macapagal 6, Tubid 5, Hubalde 5, Aquino 2, Holper 0.

Quarters: 26-22; 48-43; 70-61; 97-87

Warriors feast on Maroons

Eagles, Archers collide today

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—UST vs Adamson
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

By Jasmine W. Payo

JUST ONE MORE WIN TO CLINCH.

University of the East moved within a victory of trooping straight to the UAAP Finals after dealing out the league's worst beating in the last five years, a 99-59 rout against a dejected University of the Philippines yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"At this point, I know and all the players know, that there are people who doubt us and don't want us to succeed but the more we're focusing on our game," said coach Dindo Pumaren after UE's 13th straight win.

The 40-point winning spread was the highest this season and it came just two days after Ateneo blasted the Maroons by 34 points, 93-59. The outright title slot is a bonus given to a team that completes a 14-0 sweep in the elimination round.

The only team standing in the way of the Warriors are the La Salle Green Archers, who still have to contend with fierce rival Ateneo Blue Eagles at 4 p.m. today also at the Big Dome.

The rivalry turned even more bitter this season when the Archers placed under protest their first-round loss, 80-77, in overtime to the Eagles.

"We beat them (in the first round), we hope to beat them again," said Ateneo coach Norman Black.

In the second game, the Far Eastern Tamaraws survived a National U Bulldogs' rally in the closing minutes to hack out a 72-70 win and keep their own Final Four bid alive with a 7-6 card.

The scores:

First Game

UE 99—Cañizares 15, Fampulme 12, Llagas 11, Gregorio 10, Thiele 8, Espiritu 7, Lingganay 6, Borboran 6, Lee 5, Etrone 5, Acuña 5, Arellano 4, Reyes 3, Bandaying 2, Martinez 0.

UP 59—Serios 20, Co 12, Sison 6, Gamboa 6, De Asis 4, Lopez 3, Agbayani 3, Epres 2, Marfori 1, Rosales 1, Hipolito 1. Rivera 0, Wong 0, Dela Victoria 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 29-11, 56-23, 79-37, 99-59

Second Game

FEU 72—Cawaling 21, Fernandez 15, Cervantes 10, Baracael 9, Sanga 8, Ramos 7, Abaring 2, Barroca 0, Adolfo 0.

NU 70—Aguilar 15, Asoro 13, Fernandez 11, Malagueño 10, Baloran 6, Lingao-Lingao 5, Jahnke 5, Galapon 2, Garcia 2, Salvado 1, Ponferrada 0, Luy 0, Dela Cruz 0, Catamora 0.

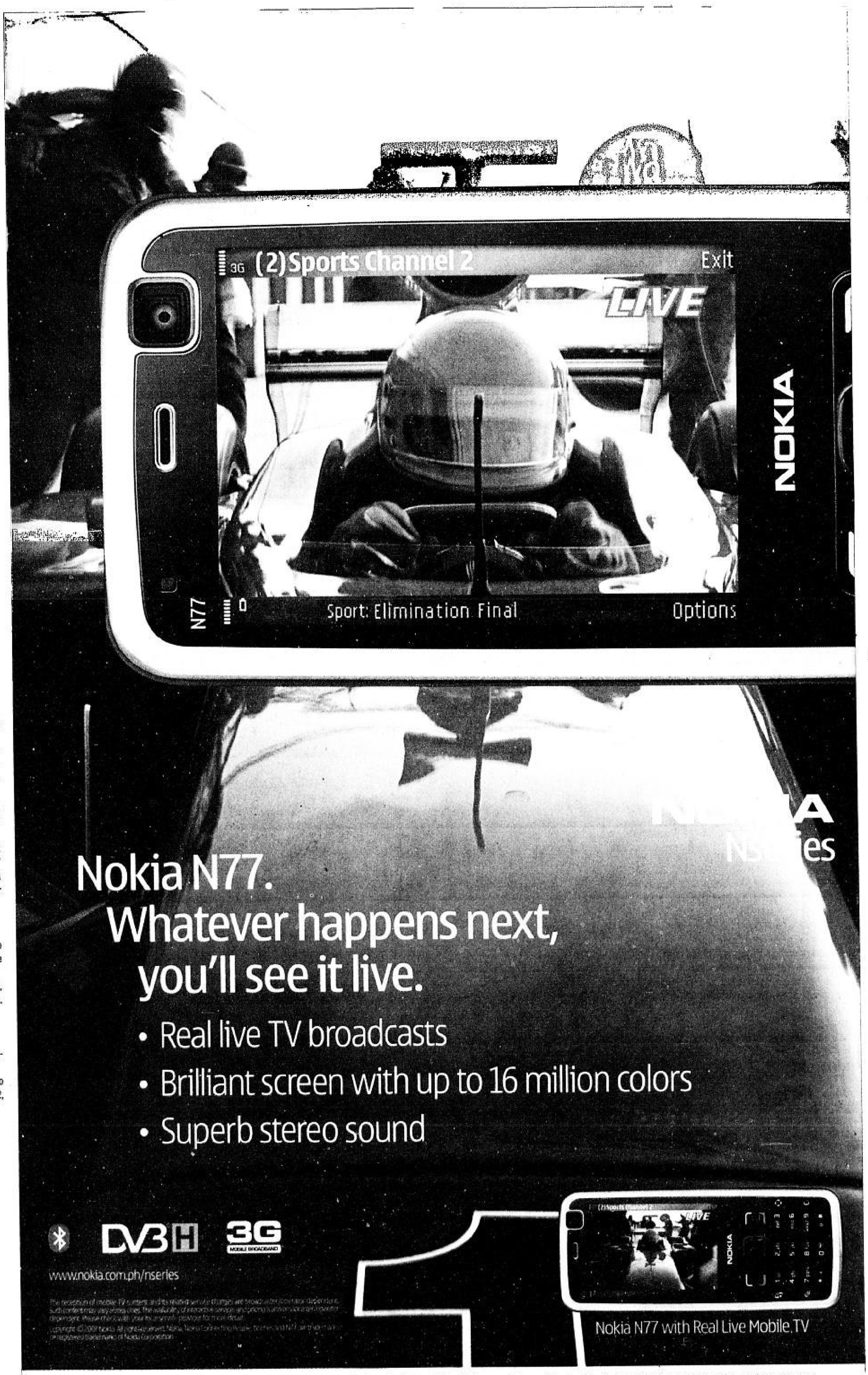
Quarters: 15-23, 35-33, 54-55, 72-70

Aljamal, Jazul top NCAA MVP bets

WILL IT BE THE OUTGOING TOP RED LION or the ace Knight?

San Beda's Yousif Aljamal and Letran's RJ Jazul looked headed for a showdown for Most Valuable Player honors after leading the scoring derby at the end of the NCAA men's basketball eliminations.

Both averaged 16 points a game although Aljamal played only 10 games as he was benched during the Red Lions' last two outings as an offshoot of the controversy following his joining the PBA draft. Jazul saw action in all 12 games for Letran, which finished the eliminations with a 9-3 win-loss card behind San Beda's league-best 11-1 record. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



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PBA better as a corporation?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I MENTIONED IN A RECENT COLUMN that last season's PBA chairman Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text, had proposed to the board the conversion of the pro basketball league from an association to a corporation.

As such, the PBA's direction would be to create the position of president or chief executive officer, who will occupy the highest position in the new table of organization—with the commissioner under him.

Under this setup, the functions, responsibilities and powers of the commissioner would be greatly minimized.

If approved, the first step would be to register the organization at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Ricky's successor, Tony Chua of Red Bull, recognizing the merits of the proposal, intends to tackle the matter at length when the board convenes for the first time under his watch in Macau sometime this month.

* * *

"A corporation allows the PBA to be more entrepreneurial, sign contracts and establish new businesses. It will make it easier to help fund the construction of its coliseum and work with partners and banking institutions," Ricky said in enumerating the advantages of a corporation.

Other benefits, he said, are better tax management, enhanced credibility with the public and better protection of the association's assets.

Ricky pointed out that the PBA, as a corporation, will be fully accountable for its decisions compared to its present form as an association.

After consulting with former PBA legal counsel Butch Cleofe, now first vice president and legal division head of the Philippine Bank of Communications, Ricky said he sees no advantage for the PBA staying on as an association since there's more room for growth as a corporation.

Ricky at present wears two hats at the PLDT: senior vice president for international carrier relations and group head for human resources.

* * *

Curious as to what the Federation of School Sports Association of the Philippines (Fessap) is all about, I accepted an invitation to attend its first general assembly under the new leadership headed by chairman Butch Pichay and president Tisha Abundo at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel.

I found out that the Fessap is a defunct association resurrected only very recently. I was told that the membership includes both government and private schools.

Fourteen sporting events are listed in the first national championship under Pichay: badminton, basketball, bodybuilding, volleyball, karatedo, taekwondo, muaythai, table tennis, archery, arnis, judo, baseball, cycling and marathon. Several NSA heads were present during the general assembly.

The other day, I read in the newspapers that Pichay was being groomed to run against incumbent SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan in the 2008 elections.

Butch's close asssociate's have denied this and I have yet to get a confirmation from Butch himself.

SPORTSWATCH

Cebu hosts Shell meet

TOP CONTENDERS, LED BY DEFENDING CHAMPion Matteo Guidicelli of Alessandra Racing, try to bolster their title bids as the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series stages its sixth leg today at the Kart Zone in Mabolo, Cebu City. It will be an emotional comeback for Guidicelli, now an ABS-CBN contract star, to his hometown Cebu where his racing career all began. He hopes to pull off a second straight victory in the premiere Formula 125 class being led by Stefano Marcelo, who boasts 369 points, paces Guidicelli by 161 points.

LGBA 7-stag derby

THE FIRST LEG OF THE 2007 LUZON GAMECOCK Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-stag derby series starts on Sept. 14 at Lucky Sports Complex in San Pablo City, Laguna. LGBA members and guest participants may field entries in any of the following 3-stag elimination rounds: Sept. 14 (Lucky Sports Complex); Sept. 19 and 22 (San Juan Coliseum). The 4-stag finals will be held at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 24 and 26. According to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz, 248 members will vie for the Gamecock Breeder of the Year award. Last year, newcomer John Daguio of Ilocos Sur bagged the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year title.

GUEST: Alaska Aces team owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu Jr. was guest speaker at the Philippine Retailers Association's 16th National Retailers Conference recently at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel. With Uytengsu (2nd from left) are Frederick Go of Robinson, Joey Singian of Adidas and Mars Chua of Sportshouse.

WINNER: Actor-racer Dominic Ochoa hugs his car after clocking 54:12 seconds and topping the first round of the Ford Focus Cup dubbed as Fast Cars & Stars recently at the Ford Open Grounds track designed by Tuason Racing School. Louie Ysmael came in second from over 400 enthusiasts, including car club members, journalists and celberities who took part in the three-day event. The second round of the Ford Focus Cup will take place on Sept. 15 and Round 3 on Sept. 28.

Batawang likes his chances vs Solis in title showdown

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—ASSURED OF A crack at a world crown, tireless Bert Batawang took a glimpse at his would-be opponent on a borrowed laptop computer and was pleasantly jolted at what he saw: there was nothing truly superior or extraordinary in the fighting style of IBF light flyweight champion Ulises Solis of Mexico.

Batawang, 35, had actually expected to see a sharper, more menacing Solis who last Aug. 4 stopped Rodel Mayol of the Philippines in a title bout in Chicago.

"*Malaki tsansa* (We have a big chance)," Batawang bared after a lunch of steaming Thai chicken noodle soup following another tough grind that saw him through a punishing 20-round regimen at the Wild Card gym here.

Batawang's original Sept. 16 championship fight with Solis was postponed indefinitely after the Mexican injured his shoulder. But the IBF, upon hearing the title crack was being offered to another fighter, declared Batawang mandatory challenger and ordered Solis to defend against the veteran Filipino campaigner before Oct. 25.

It was not an exactly soft and shallow champion they saw on the YouTube feed, but there definitely was no depth displayed, according to Jeremiah Quijano, Batawang's soft-spoken trainer.

Quijano said Solis fought "like an amateur" who often punched and pushed.

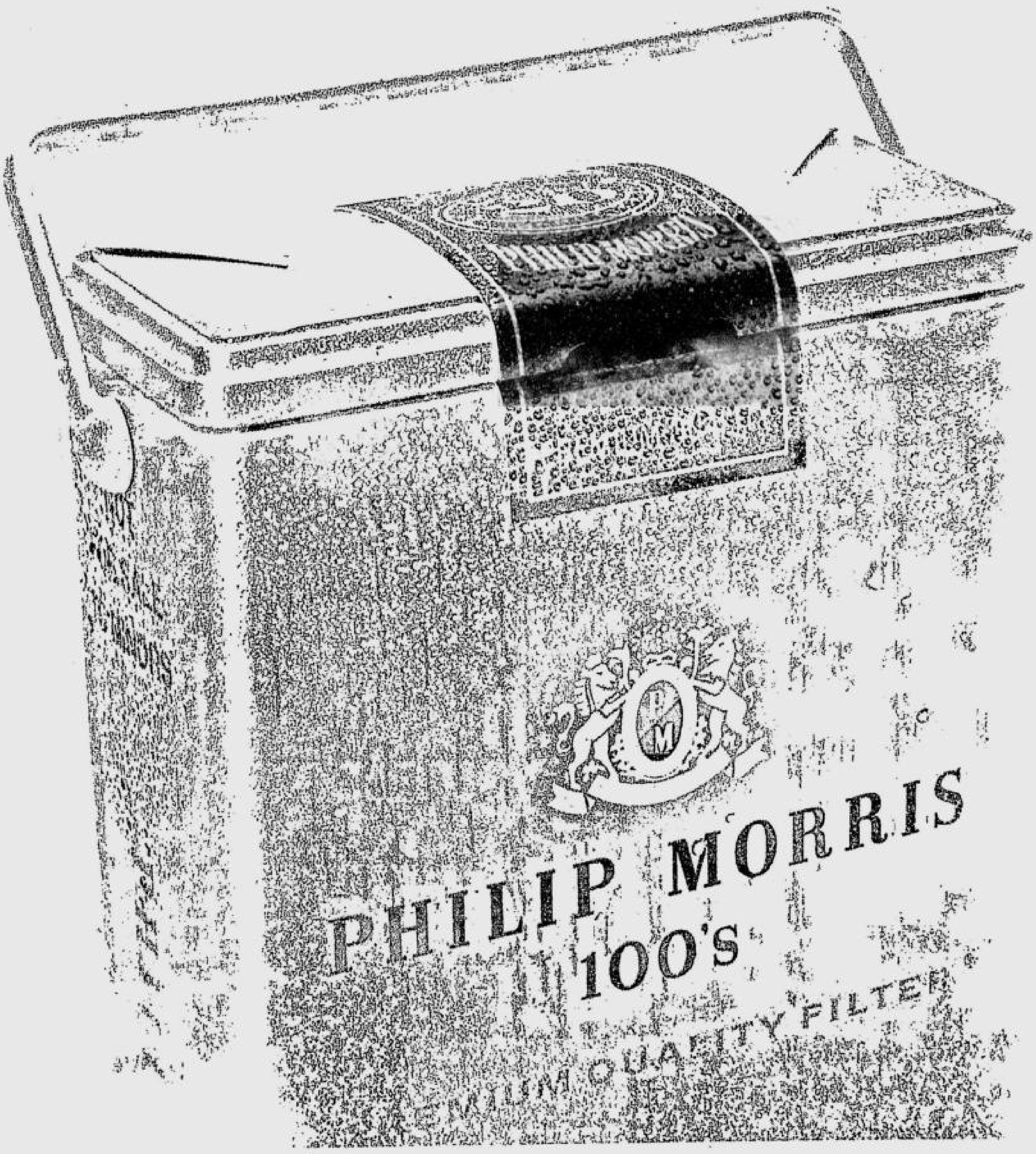
Of course, the boxer-trainer tandem agreed they have got to watch the short, sneaky right hook that toppled and stopped Mayol in the eighth round.

Batawang, finding no available sparmates yesterday, worked with the heavy bag and the mitts to sharpen his punches based on what they saw on video.

He returns to the Tracy Wireless store off Vermont Ave. today to view more Solis fights and plot better defense.

"They can go tell him to fight tomorrow and he'd be ready," trainer Quijano declared in Filipino.

MAN



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Pacquiao: I'm 90 percent fit

Y Pacquiao works the mitts. CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

FILIPINO BOXING SUPERSTAR Manny Pacquiao yesterday assured his fans he is in tip-top shape for his upcoming duel with Marco Antonio Barrera, and that contrary to reports, there have been no problems in his training whatsoever.

"*Talagang puspusan and ensayo namin at nasa* 90 percent *na po ang kundisyon ko,* (Our training is hectic and I'm already 90 percent fit)" Pacquiao told his fans in his widely read column which will soon be posted at Philboxing.com and Abante.

Pacquiao did his usual routine yesterday at the Rex "Wakee" Salud gym before a group of kids who later sang for him one of his songs.

After his morning run, Pacquiao reported to the gym a bit early to catch up with a late-afternoon flight on board a plane bound for Manila owned by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis 'Chavit' Singson.

Pacquiao was accompanied in the trip by business associate Salud, nutritionist Jojo Sta Teresa, business agent Eric Pineda and executives of GMA-7, who fetched Pacquiao from the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

Trainer Freddie Roach stayed behind in Cebu, preparing the training schedule of his prized ward.

Pacquiao met with GMA executives last night to firm up the live telecast of his Oct. 6 rematch with Barrera. Now a Kapuso, Pacquiao will appear in the SOP program of the television network before heading back to Cebu late in the afternoon.

Pacquiao is expected to hit 70 rounds of sparring next week, and is well on schedule for the targeted 130 rounds of sparring before he leaves for Los Angeles on Sept. 22.

Also set to join Pacquiao in the trip are two unbeaten fighters—Glenn Gonzales and Jundy Maraon—who will see action in the undercard of his fight with Barrera, whom he stopped in the 11th round in 2003.

Meanwhile, WBA super featherweight champion Edwin Valero, will assist Barrera in his training for his rematch with Pacquiao.

"I am going to train with Barrera in Mexico," says Valero (20-0, 20 KOs) in an interview with Fightnews.

Barrera has been training in Mexico and two of his sparmates are Japanese prospects who have been sent to his camp by top Japanese promoter Akihiko Honda.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Victorian Stones (1), Santo Santito (5), Honor Rose (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Pure Energy (5), Miss Malabon (4), Sir Benjo (1), Daddy's Girl (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Bull Rock (2), Lord Elgene (1), Rockwell (7), Reporter (6)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Blonde Baj (8), Bird In Hand (6), Silver Anna (10), Pirouette (1), Modern Classic/King's Crown (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Chowder Head (1), Fierce Fighter (4), Weder Weder (2), Frolic/Wonder Miss (5)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Anonymous (4), Mathematics/Arithmetic (9), Think Tank (1), Getting Better (6), Bohemian Dave (7)
Race 7—Ever Mine Now (2), La Tienne (1), Glory And Honour (4)
Race 8—Pele (1), Money Bank (7), Campaign Warrior (4), Sir Barbaro (6)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Beautiful Pet (5), Serious Susie (1), Acquirement (6), Circulation (2)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Batong Silyar (6), Sexy Eyes/Defiant (4), Hok Kee Hok (1), Money For Rap (2), Real Black (3)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Don Paolo (8), Ear Gray (7), Midnight King (5), Mamaya (3)
Race 12—(Penta)—Landed Visa (10), Go Go Elgene (12), Raise A Dancer (13), Now Showing (6), Tiger Rally (8)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Fille D'Honneur (1), Yao Man (6), Dato's Pride (3), Cool Cielo (4), Red Hot Water (11), Silent Operator (7)

Sta. Ana hosts two big races

By Musong R. Castillo

A HEAVY 13-RACE PROGRAM HIGHlighted by two interesting big races, one of them honoring renowned breeder William Inglis, is on tap today at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Tested imports Ever Mine Now and La Tienne clash as separate entries in leading three others in the Inglis Australia Cup, a P400,000 event spread over 1,450 meters at 5:25 p.m.

Speedball Don Paolo, meanwhile, looms as the logical pick in the Philracom-OTB Sapi Race at 7:30 p.m. where a guaranteed P200,000 awaits the winner.

Stop Talking, who owns an upset victory over superhorse Real Spicy and Empire King earlier this year, Glory and Honour and Heroics are the others entered in the Inglis race.

Ace Jonathan Hernandez steers Ever Mine Now, a great breaker off the gates who can find the route to her liking. Ever Mine Now will be coming off an impressive victory in the PSA Cup late last month when she equaled the track record for the mile at 1:38.6.

Wild Orchid, Hermie Esguerra's super import, has since erased that mark two weeks ago with a 1:37.8 clocking in the first leg of the Imported Challenge Series over at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Cavite.

Patty Dilema handles Japan Friendship Cup winner La Tienne, a stayer who spent most of the early years of her career as Ever Mine Now's couple and back up.

Jessie B. Guce pilots Stop Talking, while Ferdinand Raquel boots Glory and Honour. BM Yamzon rides Heroics in the race that offers P250,000 to the winner.

Bay Cats rout Titans for 3rd

SAN SEBASTIAN—CAVITE, WITH GLEN Bolocon firing a game-high 26 points, downed deposed champion AMA, 82-69, yesterday to capture third place in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"We are happy. At least we managed to get into third place," said San Sebastian-Cavite coach Egay Macaraya. "At least we can put the memories of last year behind us."

Due to a technicality the school committed, the Bay Cats forfeited all their elimination games right in their maiden season.

"Next year, we promised to build up and be even stronger," added Macaraya.

In the women's division, Jenn Navor banged in 17 points to lead four others with double-digit scores as Holy Angel turned back St. Clare, 75-62, to salvage third place.

Marc Anthony Reyes

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

SAN SEBASTIAN CAV 82—Bolocon 26, Gracilla 15, Cenita 8, Echavez 8, Alcasabas 6, Reyes 6, Lucernas 4, Villareal 3, Callado 3, Filio 2, Basa 1, Antipuesto 0.

AMA 69—Abac 22, Mollena 11, Jaime 10, Vergara 9, Galang 8, Manalang 5, Zablan 2, Donasco 2, Bernardo 0.

Quarters: 15-20, 36-31, 56-47, 82-69.

Second Game (Women)

HOLY ANGEL 75—Navor 17, Osio 15, Ramirez 14, Carlos 13, Del Rosario 10, Manalo 4, Pond 2, Basco 0, Fuertez 0, Canedo 0, Liwanag 0.

ST. CLARE 62—Calizo 18, Babasa 16, Yanson 12, Tirador 10, Galedo 6, Talabero 0, Marquesas 0, Gonzaga 0, Padpad 0, Bagaguino 0, Severino 0, Pontejos 0, Montaner 0.

Quarters: 22-17, 43-28, 51-46, 75-62.

PARTNERS: MARHO president and Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos congratulates Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim (right) for intensifying the campaign against llegal bookies in Manila that resulted to an improvement of local horse racing sales. From left are Marho directors Elias Chua and Nathaniel Velasco.

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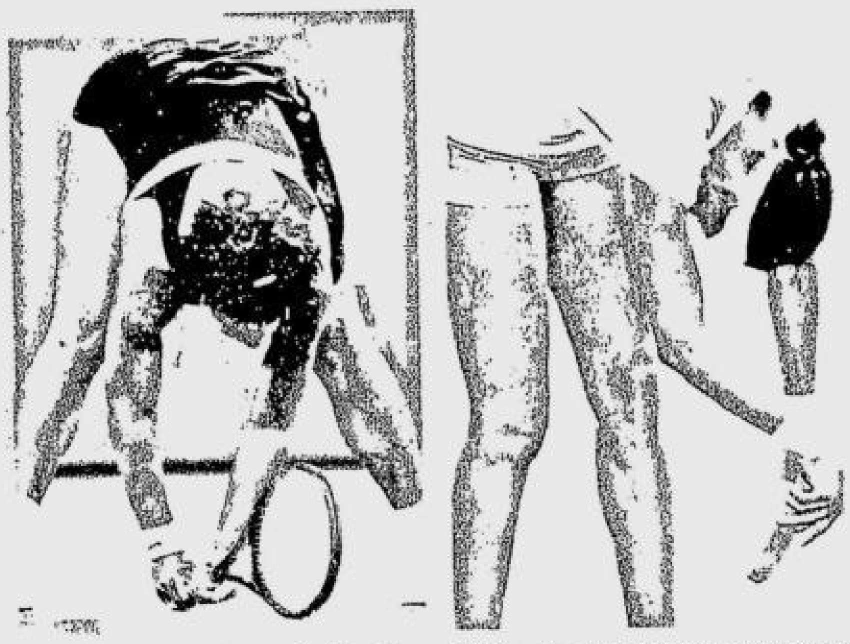
Sisters slammed

Henin completes sweep of Williamses

NEW YORK—SHE FINISHED OFF THE SISTER SLAM. Now, Justine Henin will try to finalize another Grand Slam title: The US Open.

Henin outlasted Venus Williams three days after knocking out sister Serena, winning Friday's semifinal, 7-6 (2) 6-4.

Martina Hingis was the only other player to beat the siblings in the same Grand Slam tournament, at the 2001 Australian Open.



WHETHER it was Serena (left) or Venus, it did not matter to Justine Henin. The Williams sisters ended up bowing to the world No. 1. AP, AFP

Packing a powerful serve, wicked backhands and daring rushes to the net, Henin has not lost a set through six matches.

Earlier this week, many tennis fans believed there would be a Williams in the final. Henin ended that, all by herself.

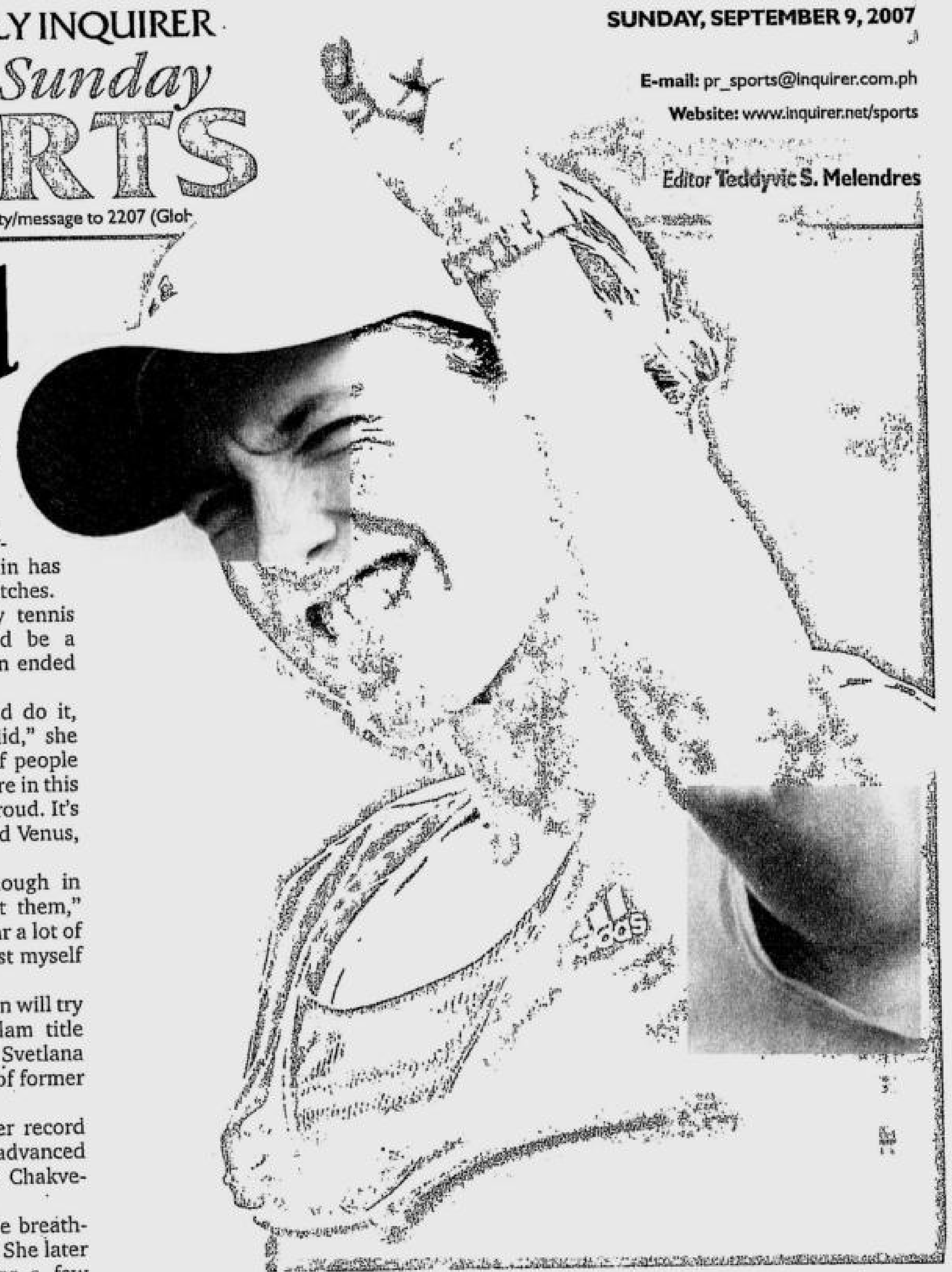
"I really believed I could do it, and that's maybe why I did," she said. "I don't think a lot of people thought I could beat her here in this tournament. I was really proud. It's not easy to play Serena and Venus, you know."

"Didn't trust myself enough in the last few years against them," she said. "And then this year a lot of things have changed. I trust myself much more."

On Saturday night, Henin will try for her seventh Grand Slam title when she takes on No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova in a matchup of former champs.

Henin has a 14-2 career record against Kuznetsova, who advanced by defeating No. 6 Anna Chakvetadze, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Henin had some trouble breathing during the second set. She later said she'd been ailing for a few days. *AP*



JUSTINE Henin now can look forward to bagging another Grand Slam trophy. AFP

BMW championship: Woods lurking in a familiar place

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—AARON BADDELEY and Jonathan Byrd were well on their way to the top of the leaderboard Friday at the BMW Championship when Tiger Woods figured he better get going if he didn't want to be left behind.

That's about the time he started losing his swing and finding his putter, which wasn't a bad combination at Cog Hill.

Baddeley returned from a three-hour rain delay by making three straight birdies and finished strong for a 6-under 65, giving him a share of the lead with Byrd (69) going into the weekend of the third tournament in these PGA Tour Playoffs.

But it was difficult to ignore Woods, whose second straight 67 put him one shot behind, along with Barclays winner Steve Stricker (66), Justin Rose (69) and Camilo Villegas (69).

Woods is a three-time winner on this public course outside Chicago, and it was not unusual to see him make birdie on all the par 5s and wind up in contention. How he got there was not so typical.

He birdied the par-5 ninth by slicing his tee shot into the woods, pulling his second shot behind more trees and then hooking an 8-iron out of the rough to 15 feet and making the putt. *AP*

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Spain routs Greece; Jazz' Kirilenko powers Russia

MADRID, SPAIN—SPAIN ROUTED GREECE 76-58 Friday in the second stage of the European basketball championship.

Guard Rudy Fernandez led Spain with 20 points and Memphis Grizzlies center Pau Gasol added 15 in a rematch of last year's world championship final—which was also dominated by Spain.

"This team doesn't really have individuals—we always play as a team. That's why we can beat as strong a team as Greece," Fernandez said.

Earlier Friday, Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko had another double-double as unbeaten Russia became the first team to clinch a quarterfinal spot thanks to a 78-63 win over Portugal.

Israel also moved closer to the quarterfinals by beating Croatia, 80-75, boosted by strong three-point shooting and another double-double from forward Yaniv Green, who finished with 17 points and 16 rebounds and three blocks.

Russia leads Group E with six points from three wins, Spain and Croatia have five, while Greece and Israel are on four and Portugal sits last with three.

First-round results against teams that progressed into the second group stage are carried over and the top four teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals, which begin Thursday.

On Saturday, Dirk Nowitzki and Tony Parker square off as Germany opens against France in Group F. Unbeaten Lithuania plays Olympic runner-up Italy and Slovenia (2-0) faces Turkey (0-2).

With a near capacity crowd of 10,500 in the Madrid Arena, Fernandez and Gasol got the crowd going after early jitters and Greece—the defending European champions—was already rattled as Spain pushed out to a 13-4 lead.

And then, just like in the 70-47 win at the worlds, the outside shooting took over.

Juan Carlos Navarro, Fernandez and Toronto Raptors guard Jose Calderon all made three-pointers by the time Alex Mumbru's three gave Spain a 45-24 advantage as Greece's defense went soft.

Greece's first half shooting connected on just 26 percent on their field goals in the first half, while Spain hit half of its shots.

"Basketball is a game where you have to forget your mistakes and play the next game without any thought about it. We're going to enjoy the next game more," Greece coach Panagiotis Giannakis said.

Greece improved in the second half but it was too late as Spain cruised, with center Felipe Reyes adding 10 points and eight rebounds. *AP*

NATIONAL INTERCITY BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHI
SEPT.7,2007 MALABON SPRING COOKING OIL
CHAMPION

SPRING players and team officials celebrate after the victory.

Spring Oil bags inter-city title

SPRING COOKING OIL-MALABON LED from start to finish to beat Wang's Ball Club-Mandaluyong, 95-88, Friday and bag the national inter-city basketball crown at the San Andres gym.

Veterans Larry Rodriguez, Niño Marquez and Marlon Kalaw combined for 54 points to help NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters sweep the one-round tournament.

Rodriguez led all scorers with 24 points while Marquez and Kalaw contributed 18 and 12 markers, respectively.

A veteran PBL campaigner, Rodriguez was named the tournament's most valuable player.

The Cooking Oil Masters raced to a 51-36 lead at the turn and remained on top, 73-61 going into the payoff period.

Bidoy Simon and Ronnie Matias paced Mandaluyong with 20 and 19 points, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters' victory boosted their confidence as they prepare for the Hualien Invitational next month in Taiwan.

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Exporter survives by tapping local market

Text and photos by Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—FOR EXPORTERS reeling from tight competition in the foreign market, selling locally can be a lifesaver.

Sherill Quintana, 32, sole proprietor of Kutitap Aromatherapy Crafts, resorted to retailing to save her business. She knew she could no longer compete with cheap products from China.

Engaged in the manufacture of decorative and aroma candles, incense, massage oils, and body scrubs, Kutitap used to export around P2 million worth of products every quarter.

But when Quintana ventured into the retailing of her aromatherapy products, which are said to relieve stress and promote wellness, she reduced her output to P200,000 worth of products.

Today, she has three stores located in shopping malls in Los Baños in Laguna, Lipa City and Batangas City. She also consigns products to boutiques in Laguna.

Hobby

"Kutitap" started as a hobby of Quintana before it became a hit and a big source of income for her family and her staff.

Since her high school days, Quintana said, she was especially fond of candles and other handicrafts.

She recalled that, when she was 14, she used to fashion products out of discarded candles and floor wax.

A graduate of Sociology from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, she worked as information and communications officer for agencies like the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

But her difficult pregnancy gave her the opportunity to go back to what she really loves to do. She resigned from work and stayed home while making candles.

After relatives and friends ordered pieces as gifts for different occasions, Quintana was emboldened to make money out of her craft.

She recounted that, with an initial capital of P15,000 and just several months into production, she was already accepting big orders, one of them from Max's Restaurant, who asked her to deliver for a Valentine dinner.

She later joined trade shows and bazaars in Manila and started exporting in January 2001.

Kutitap put up a small factory in Calamba City as business expanded.

Retail

Those were the glorious days, which were quickly followed by difficulties when her export venture faced competing Chinese products.

"We were not that flexible to have a pricing structure that would cover all the costs. But instead of closing down like what other companies were doing, we developed other ways to survive," she said.

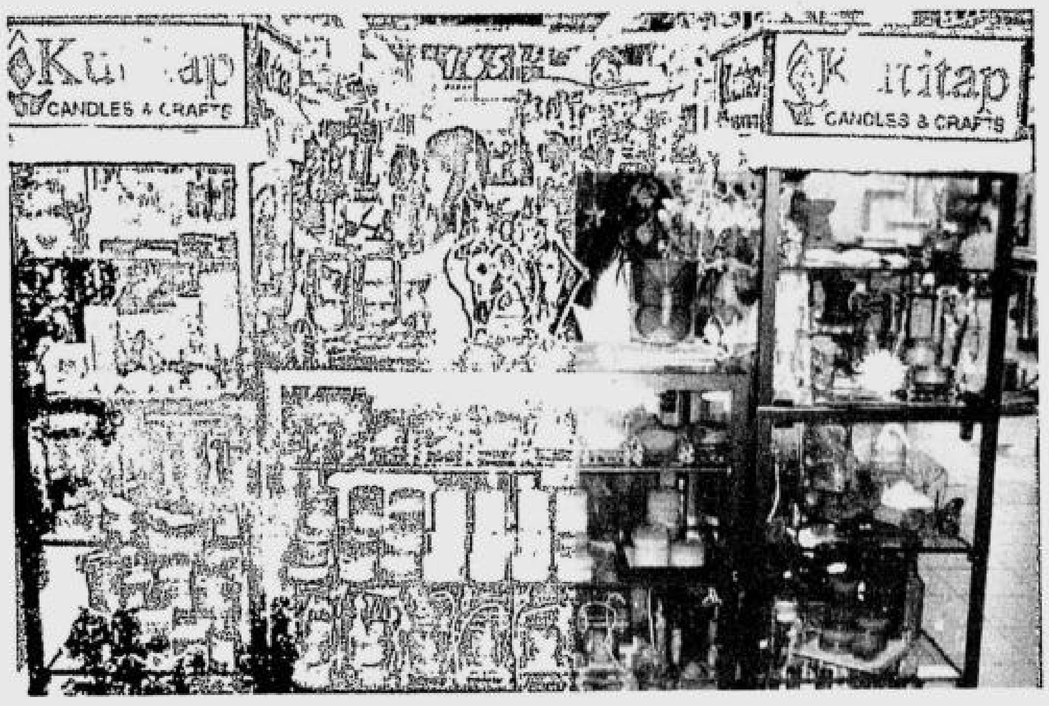
Quintana admitted that many exporters, including herself, were ignoring the local market because foreign buyers purchase in bulk.

After three years in the export business, she returned to the basics.

According to Quintana, the local and the export markets are very different from each other in terms of "taste" and management style.

Production for export is primarily based on orders, with one deal allowing the proprietor to survive for about six months. Production for the local market, on the other hand, goes on the entire year.

SHERILL Quintana, owner of Kutitap Aromatherapy Crafts



KUTITAP store in Robinson's Place in Los Baños, Laguna

She noted that Kutitap always adjusted to the consumers' taste.

"We had an experience (wherein) no one, except *balikbayan* buyers bought our candles created by very good designers," she said.

"Unlike the western consumers, most Filipinos don't want basic colors because candles for us are decorative items and not functional," she added.

According to her, variety of designs is the key to the successful retailing of Kutitap's products.

Creating the market

Most people don't know the products they sell, so they have to experience first how to use them and even how to make one.

This strategy is also a means of creating the market, she said.

Just in the last week of August, Quintana facilitated a training on making candles, body scrubs, and essential oils among women residents of Calamba City.

Since 2000, Quintana has facilitated at least 40 workshops mostly in barangays in Quezon, Batangas and Laguna provinces.

"As the owner, I have this belief that what you give will come back but in other forms," she claimed.

It has been a company mission for years to help mothers at home become productive while taking care of their children.

Tourism

This year, Kutitap developed a new marketing strategy that would promote not only aromatherapy products. This means including promoting the town of Los Baños in trade shows and some advertisements.

"Our strategy is to attract people to come in, not just to visit our store but also to see wonderful places in our town."

Quintana was recently elected president of the Los Baños Tourism Council so it became easy for her to forge an alliance with other business owners.

Kutitap today employs 12 production workers and two staff members in each store.

During months with big orders, Quintana subcontracts work within Laguna.

She stressed that, in order to stay long in a business, it is important to be flexible and adjust to the people's demand.

Her advice to other budding entrepreneurs is to maintain their enthusiasm and passion for what they are doing.

"Even if there are people here designated to make the candles, I am still excited in making and designing one, especially if I am practicing new techniques," she said.

> She tells budding craftsmen to maintain their enthusiasm and passion for what they are doing

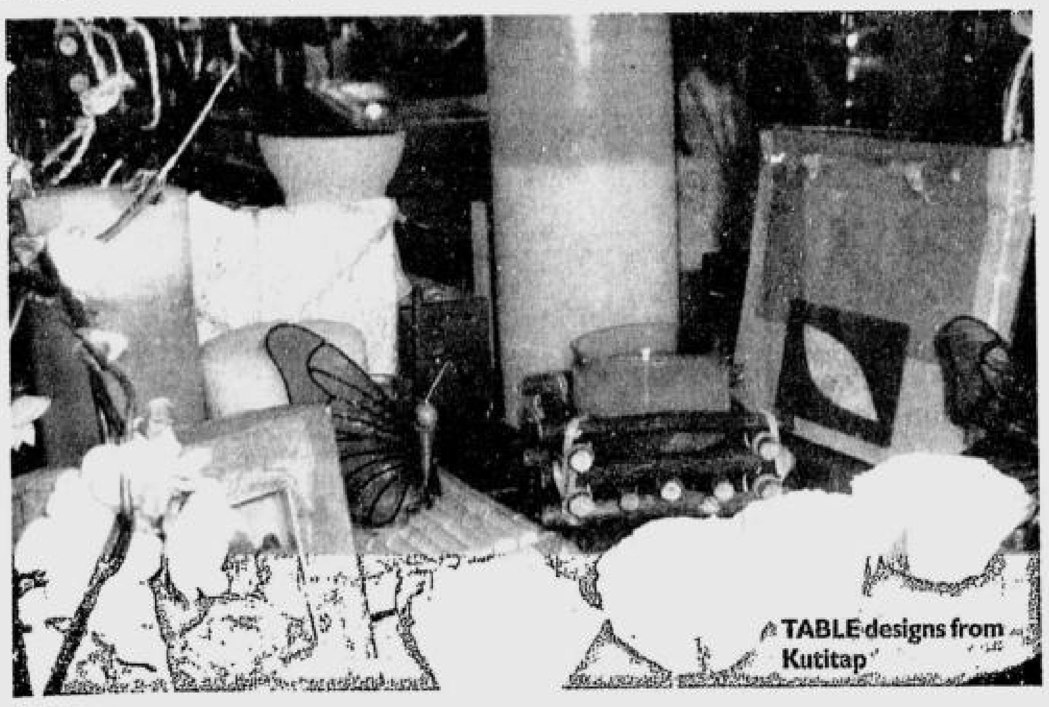


TABLE designs from Kutitap

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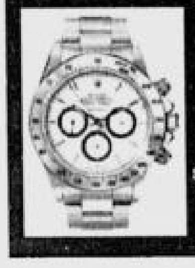

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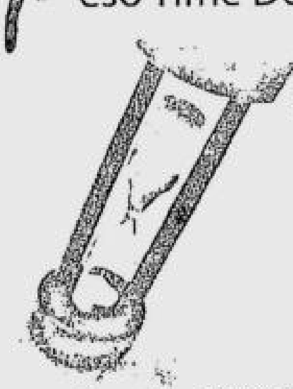

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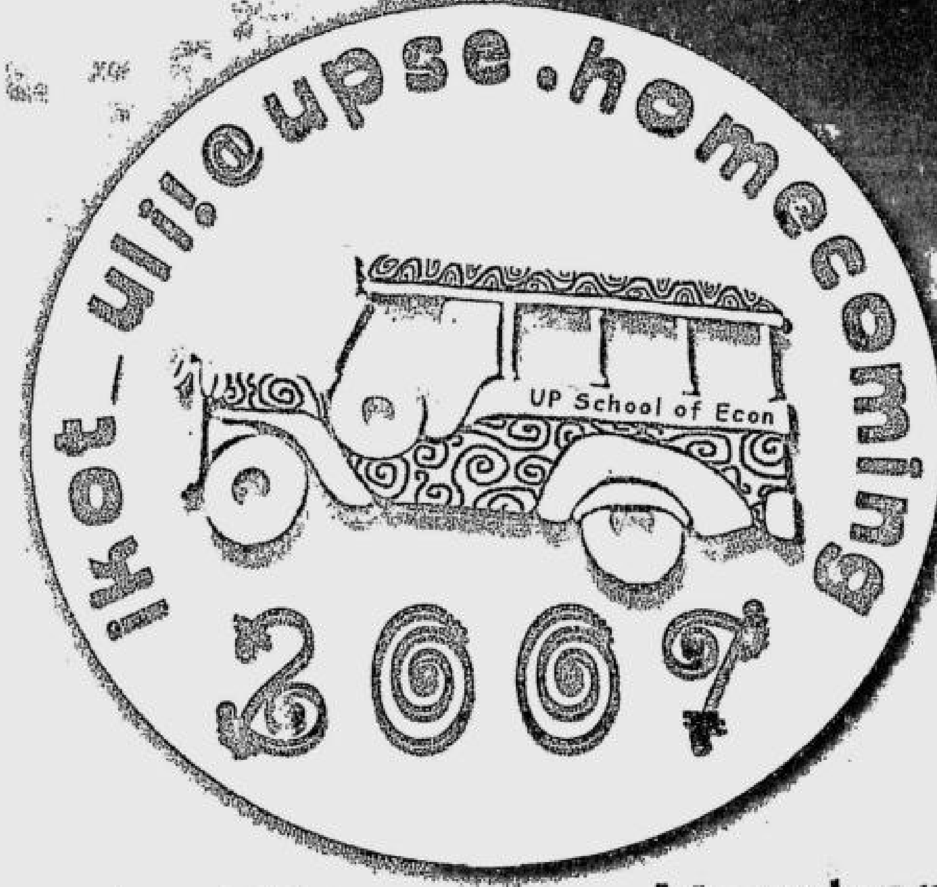

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Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph; E-mail. depeds@yahoo.com
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) of the Department of Education (DepED), through its **Bids and Awards Committee II (BAC II)**, invites prospective bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI), apply for eligibity and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classrooms at GSIS Village Elementary School and Maligaya High School**

LOCATION : Quezon City

Package No.	Building	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Contract Duration (Calendar Days)
1	GSIS Village Elementary School	Php8,250,750.00	160
2	Maligaya High School	8,250,750.00	160
	TOTAL >>>>>>>>>>>>>	Php16,501,500.00	

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected at bid opening. Bidder may bid for any or all of the package. Late bid shall be rejected. Award shall be made on a per package basis.

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed similar civil works (vertical construction) largest single contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC being bid, experience or completed contract(s) in restoration of historical or heritage building(s), and key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check and Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The Schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility, and Issuance of Eligibility Documents	September 10-21, 2007 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
2. Submission/Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on September 24, 2007 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Eligibility Requirements	September 25, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 27, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on September 28, 2007
6. Pre bid Conference Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Ground Flr., Rizal Bldg., I, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	October 5, 2007, 10:00 a.m.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Ground Flr., Rizal Bldg., I, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	October 17, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

The Eligibility Documents shall be available at **Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat, Rm., 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City** upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment in cash of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Five Hundred and 00/100 only (Php 500.00)** Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements in a sealed envelope to the BAC through the Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat at the address above. The results of the Eligibility Check may also obtain at the same address.

The BAC will only issue Bidding Documents to bidders declared as eligible to bid upon payment in cash of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Five Thousand and 00/00 (Php5,000.00)** and a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos One Thousand and 00/100 only (Php1,000.00)** for the Blue Print Copy of Plan per item. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. Nos. (02) 633-9343 or Fax No. (02) 636-6543. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.

The Purchaser assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid. Likewise, the Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and BAC II Chairperson

(PDI – Sept. 9, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID

The Rule of Law Effectiveness (ROLE), a USAID funded project, invites interested parties to bid for the development of an application software that will automate the case management system of the Court of Appeals and the Court of Tax Appeals.

Interested parties are invited to obtain a copy of the detailed Request for Proposal from the ROLE office listed below. Bids, with information on company profile, must be submitted not later than September 21, 2007. Meeting with interested bidders will be held on September 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., during which copies of the RFP will be distributed and explained.

ROLE PROJECT
Unit 3004, 30th Floor 88 Corporate Center
141 Valero corner Sedeño Sts.
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227, Philippines
Tel. No.: 729-0575 to 78

(PDI–September 9, 2007)

Municipality of Motiong, Samar
Construction & Rehabilitation of Motiong FMR

Bidding Documents
Invitation for Bids

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: September 9, 2007
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-08-015-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for the **Construction and Rehabilitation of 14.465 kms. Motiong Farm to Market Road.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as a Medium A contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, three (3) road construction work projects valued at least Pesos 15,000,000.00 each.
2. The Municipality of Motiong, Samar invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works, which includes two (2) Road Sections (4.355 kms. New Minarog - Inalad and 10.11 kms. Jct. Maypange - Pusongan) totaling 14.465 kms.; 1 set 3-barrel and 5 sets 1-barrel of Reinforced Concrete Box Culverts (RCBC); and 47 single-line and 3 double-line of Reinforced Concrete Pipe Culverts (RCPC). The maximum contract period for the works is 365 calendar days.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at the office of the Employer, at

ACILA G. BACO
Office of the BAC Chairman
Municipality of Motiong, Province of Samar

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 7,000.00). Issuance of bid documents will be on September 16, 2007 to October 15, 2007.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of equivalent to two (2) percent of the Bid Amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the address indicated above on or before 2:00 P.M. on October 30, 2007. Bids will be opened at 2:00 P.M. on the aforementioned date, in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend. A pre-bid conference will be on October 18, 2007 at 2:00 o'clock P.M., Session Hall, Muntinlupa Building, Motiong, Samar.
6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

(Sgd.) ACILA G. BACO
BAC Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 9, 2007)

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Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph; E-mail: depeds@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department of Education**, through its Bids and Awards Committee II (DepEd-BAC II), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT : **Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs CY 2006 School Furniture Program 10% Unallocated Portion**
LOCATION : Various Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
BRIEF DESCRIPTION : Package A = Armchairs made of Wood and Steel
Package B = Armchair made of non-Wood Based Materials
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE : Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2006 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (10% Unallocated)
CONTRACT DURATION One Hundred Fifty (150) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES : "Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

Package/Lot No.	Regions	No. of Armchairs	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
PACKAGE "A"	*Armchairs made of Wood and Steel*		
Lot No.			
1	I	2,350 pcs.	Php1,833,000.00
2	II	925 pcs.	721,500.00
3	IX	7,150 pcs.	5,577,000.00
4	X	9,650 pcs.	7,527,000.00
5	XI	1,350 pcs.	1,053,000.00
6	XII	6,865 pcs.	5,354,700.00
7	CARAGA	2,000 pcs.	1,560,000.00
8	ARMM	8,817 pcs.	6,877,260.00
	Sub-total	*39,107 pcs.*	*Php30,503,460.00*
PACKAGE "B"	*Armchairs made of Non-Wood Based Materials*		
LOT No.			
1	III	5,574 pcs.	Php6,688,800.00
2	IV-A	7,665 pcs.	9,198,000.00
3	IV-B	6,900 pcs.	8,280,000.00
4	V	9,675 pcs.	11,610,000.00
5	VI	7,800 pcs.	9,360,000.00
6	VII	7,125 pcs.	8,550,000.00
7	VIII	5,750 pcs.	6,900,000.00
8	NCR	7,400 pcs.	8,880,000.00
	Sub-Total	*57,889 pcs.*	*Php69,466,800.00*
	GRAND TOTAL	96,996 pcs.	Php99,970,260.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents

DepED BAC II will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on September 18, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the LCC Conference Room, Rm. 413-B, 4th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.

Bids must be received on or before **October 2, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the LCC Conference Room, Rm. 413-B, 4th Flr., Mabini bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.** Opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Bids received that exceed the ABC per Lot shall be rejected at bid opening. Bidder may bid for one, more than one or all of the Lots. Late Bids shall be rejected. Award shall be made on a per lot basis

Bid Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, starting on September 10, 2007 upon payment in cash of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Philippine Pesos Five Thousand 00/100 (Php5,000.00)** only to the DepED Central Office, Cash Division

DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and BAC II Chairperson

(PDI – Sept. 9, 2007)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"On Firm Grounds, Moving Forward"
No. 03 Purok BWD, Barangay Marcoville, 2600 Baguio City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to be for the hereunder contracts:

	CONTRACT A	CONTRACT B
Name of Contract	Installation of 6"O x 2.2 km pipeline (rising main) from Tacay-Pinsao well to Buyog Pumping Station	Installation of 8"O x 1.96 km pipeline (rising main) from Tacay-Pinsao well to Saggalang Tank
Location	Tacay Road, Baguio City	Tacay Road, Baguio City
Brief Description	The project involves pipelaying works along existing roads to install the proposed 6" x 2.2 km of HDPE pipeline	The project involves pipelaying works along existing roads to install the proposed 8" x 1.96 km of HDPE pipeline
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 3,793,480.23	Php 7,485,329.38
Contract Duration	100 calendar days	98 calendar days

Note: Bids for the above contracts shall be submitted separately. The above contracts will be awarded individually.
Bidders must have the following minimum equipment requirements:
1. One (1) unit Hydraulic Breaker
2. One (1) unit Backhoe
3. One (1) unit Elf Truck
4. With official receipt and certificate of registration for the equipment if owned by the contractor or contract of lease if rented, as applicable.

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have satisfactorily completed a similar contract with the Baguio Water District with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and minimum equipment as listed above and in the Eligibility Form. The BAC will use a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification on the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conferencels, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) including applications for Eligibility by interested bidders and simultaneous issuance of Eligibility Forms to interested bidders	September 10-13, 2007
2. Submission of Eligibility documents	September 24, 2007
3. Issuance of Results of Eligibility check	Oct. 1, 2007

The BAC will issue Eligibility Forms to interested bidders upon the submission of a Letter of Intent to the BAC Secretariat at the Baguio Water District, 003 Brgy. Marcoville, Baguio City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) to the Baguio Water District Cashier. Interested bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address and on the due date as specified above.

Bid documents per project will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand pesos (Php3,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Tel. Nos.: Administrave: 444-7246; Finance: 442-4858; Commercial: 442-6539; Production/Engineering/Construction & Maintenance: 442-4228; Complaints: 442-3218, 442-4929. Audit: 444-5364; GM's Office: 442-3456; Fax: 442-4858; 442-3456; 444-7245.

(Sgd.) Engr. SALVADOR M. ROYECA
BAC-Projects Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 2 & 9, 2007)

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SAGIP LINGAYEN GULF PROJECT (SLGP)
Sustaining the Management of Coastal Resources in Selected Municipalities in Lingayen Gulf

The SLGP is a 5-year conservation and development project being implemented by the Marine Environment and Resources Foundation (MERF), Inc. with grant funding from the State of the Netherlands. Operating in partnership with 6 local government units in (Province of Pangasinan and Alaminos, Bani, Bolinao and Anda in Pangasinan and San Fernando City in La Union) and their fisherfolk communities, the Project aims "to develop and pilot coastal resource management models leading to sustainable fisheries, sustainable livelihood and water quality in Lingayen Gulf for replication and/or expansion in both the Project's service areas, and elsewhere". Completing on 30 November 2007, the Project is now convening a high-calibre independent team of experts for its Final Evaluation scheduled for 24 October to 21 November 2007. In this relation, they are seeking applicants for the following expertise:

Team Leader: Integrated Coastal Management/Coastal Resource Management Expert

He or she shall be a Foreign National but must have worked and/or familiar with the Philippine coastal and marine sector, must possess a doctorate degree in Marine Science, Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) or other related fields, have at least 15 years of experience in managing and/or consulting for projects in Integrated Coastal Management, Natural Resource/Coastal Resources Management, Integrated Conservation and Development.

Team Member 1: Governance and Institutional Development Expert

He or she shall be a Filipino, must possess at least a masters degree (preferably a doctorate degree) in Development Management or other related fields, have 10-15 years of experience in managing and/or consulting for projects in Integrated Coastal Management, Natural Resource/Coastal Resources Management, Integrated Conservation and Development, as Governance and Institutional Development Expert/ Participatory (preferably including gender) and Community-based Development Expert.

Team Member 2: Development Finance Expert

He or she shall be a Filipino, must possess at least a masters degree in Development Finance or other related fields, have at least 10 years of experience in managing development funds and/or managing the financing of integrated conservation and development projects, have a good grasp of the workings of resource-linked livelihood and/or sustainable rural livelihoods, should have experience in Budgeting, Financial Analysis and Management, Accounting and Internal Controls of government agencies, NGOs and POs and must be sufficiently authoritative to interact with top-level managers and do forensic accounting, if necessary.

For further information on the Project, Terms of Reference (ToR) and other qualifications required of each expert, please check **http://www.msi.upd.edu.ph** and **http://www.merf.org.ph.** For interested candidates, please send your application letter, curriculum vitae and copies of contracts of 3 of your most recent related engagements to:

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
U.P. MSI Building, Velasquez St.,
Diliman, Quezon City P.O. Box 1101
Telefax (075) 554-2755, e-mail: **merf_inc@yahoo.com**

Municipality of Motiong, Samar
Construction of Flat Slab Bridges

Bidding Documents
Invitation for Bids

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date. September 9, 2007
ADB Loan No. 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-08-015-02

1 The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for the **Construction of 31.0m Bonga and 45.0m Nagbak Flat Slab Bridges.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as a Medium A contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, three (3) bridge construction work projects valued at least Pesos 5,500,000 each.
2. The Municipality of Motiong, Samar invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works, which includes two (2) Flat Slab Bridges (31.0 meters Bonga Flat Slab Bridge and 45.0 meters Nagbak Flat Slab Bridge) totaling 76.0 meters. The maximum contract period for the works is 180 calendar days.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at the office of the Employer, at

ACILA G. BACO
Office of the BAC Chairman
Municipality of Motiong, Province of Samar

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Four Thousand Pesos (Php 4,000.00). Issuance of bid documents will be on September 23, 2007 to October 22, 2007.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of equivalent to two (2) percent of the Bid Amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the address indicated above on or before 2:00 o'clock P.M. on November 6, 2007. Bids will be opened at 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the aforementioned date, in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend. A pre-bid conference will be on October 25, 2007 at 2:00 o'clock P.M., Session Hall, Municipal Building, Motiong, Samar.
6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

(Sgd.) ACILA G. BACO
BAC Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Sur
CITY OF DIGOS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 26 August 2007
Contract ID No.: SP- RM-000-IS-13
World Bank Loan No. 4446PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued. Bidding will be governed by the World Bank's eligibility rules and procedures.
2. The City Government of Digos now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the *Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computerized Real Property Tax Administration (RPTA) System.* The contract completion is within six (6) months
3. Bidding will be conducted using the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines on Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Office of CGSO, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City at telephone no (082) 553-8361. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased on September 17 - 24, 2007 during office hours from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday at the same address as above for Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), after presenting a letter of Intent. This amount is non-refundable. The method of payment will be in the form of cash or cashier's check. The bidding documents may be secured personally or dispatched promptly via courier.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days and must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat, Office of CGSO, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City on or before October 24, 2007 at 10:00AM. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in accordance to the following table of amounts and form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2-1/2%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at Conference Room, Office of the City Mayor, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City, 1:00 PM on October 24, 2007 in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. The estimated budget for the contract is **Nine Million Four Hundred Twenty-two Thousand One Hundred Sixty-one Philippine Pesos (P9,422,161.00).**

6. **A pre-bid conference will be held on October 12, 2007, 10:00AM at the Conference Room, Office of the City Mayor, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City.**
7. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder, and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank-financed procurement
8. The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) JESUS B. UY, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St
Digos City, 8002 Davao del Sur

(PDI – Sept. 9 & 16, 2007)

SMA-P to help victims of Metro Road clearing

ST. MARY'S ACADemy Pasay will open its doors to some 500 families whose shanties were demolished along the Estero Tripa de Gallina, affected by the recent MMDA Metro Road Clearing Project.

On Monday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m., SMA-P will host the gift-giving in coordination with the Social Services Ministry of Sta. Clara De Montefalco Parish in Pasay. The entire school community will join hands in reaching out to these families while waiting transfer to their relocation under the school's community outreach program, Lingap Ignacia. The school's initiative is part of a series of events to mark this year's 259th Death Anniversary of its foundress, Mother Ignacia Del Espiritu Santo.

The Lingap Ignacia Program builds on two pillars: the promotion of justice, peace and integrity of creation and ignite a deeper sense of mission and sharing in the ministry of Mother Ignacia.

This year also marks the 85th anniversary of St. Mary's Academy Pasay.

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) invites all interested parties to submit proposals for the disposition of the partially developed properties described below through outright sale (in bulk or by phase), joint venture, or other similar or variant schemes:

EAGLE CREST VILLA SUBDIVISION
Bakakeng Road, Baguio City
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Phase	Area (Sq.m.)	Minimum Bid Price (Php)
• Phase I	5,678.00	24,721,955.22
• Phase II	11,842.00	46,674,295.64
• Phase III	16,129.00	71,711,469.48
Total	33,649.00	143,107,720.34

The sale of the property shall be on an "As-Is-Where-Is" basis. The bidders are advised to inspect the project to determine its actual condition. Particulars of the bidding including the bid documents and eligibility requirements can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management Department (AMD) at the Jade Building, 4th Floor, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TEN THOUSAND PESOS** (P10,000.00) from September 10 to 18, 2007.

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

	ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME (FY 2007)
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 10 to 18
2	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	September 10 to 24
3	Pre-Bid Conference	September 19/2:00 PM, HGC Board Room
4	Deadline for submission and opening of Eligibility Requirements (pass/fail criteria)	September 24/2:00 PM, HGC Board Room
5	Submission of Bid Proposals	October 15 to October 19
6	Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	October 19/2:00 PM, HGC Board Room

For inquiries, please call at telephone nos. 897-3290 and 897-3286 or visit our office at Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

If for any reason the mentioned dates are declared non-working holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place mentioned.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS**
Head, Task Force for the Disposition
of the Eagle Crest Villas Subdivision

(PDI - Sept. 9, 2007)

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting interested parties to submit letters of intent to negotiate and bid proposals for the disposition of the property described below thru outright sale (in bulk or by phase), joint venture, lease, or other similar or variant schemes:

LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION					
		LOTS	HOUSE & LOT	TOTAL	AREA (sqm)	STATUS
IMPERIAL CENTRAL PLAINS SUBDIVISION Brgy. Bakod Bayan, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	Phase 1	534	197	731	44,645.54	Developed
	Phase 2	8	0	8	111,120.00	Partially developed
	Phase 3	1	0	1	31,559.00	Rawland
	Total	**543**	**197**	**740**	**187,324.54**	

1. The property shall be disposed on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis;
2. For outright sale proposals, terms of payment may be in cash or installment;
3. Offers for joint venture should indicate the guaranteed share of HGC set at market rates;
4. Offers for sale or joint venture by phase or lease must indicate the proposed terms including a provision for escalation, and
5. For other similar or variant schemes, the proposed terms of sale must be indicated.

HGC reserves the right to require additional information as it deems necessary to better understand and evaluate the offer(s).

Activities	Date/Time
Submission of Letters of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	September 10 to 13, 2007
Pre-negotiation Conference	September 14, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Financial Proposals/Offers	September 18, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.

Interested parties are encouraged to inspect the property before tendering their offers.

Details pertaining to the property as well as the guidelines for the negotiation can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) Office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from September 10 to 13, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 2,500.00.

The Financial proposals/offers shall be sealed and dropped at the designated box located at the HGC's AMDG office.

For inquiries, please call the Asset Management Department at tel. nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit our office at the Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON G. CORPUZ**
Chairperson
Asset Disposition Committee

(PDI - Sept. 9 & 10, 2007)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project: Supply and Installation of water-cooled chiller machine with total system capacity of 360TR.

Approved Budget for Contracts is PhP11,486,440.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting September 11, 2007 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee in the amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000) only. The method of payment will be in cash The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 14, 2007; 1:30 pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.).

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before September 28, 2007; 1:30 pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on September 28, 2007; 1:30 pm. at the 3/F CCP Main Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ARIEL S.R. YONZON**
BAC Chairman

(PDI -Sept. 2 & 9, 2007)

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(PDI – September 9, 2007)

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Makati: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
Kalaw: 528-0213; 527-3342
Megamall: 635-0219; 635-0220

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Sealed applications for eligibility and bid documents for the supply and delivery of 5,750 reams of Ballot Paper for use in connection with the October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, shall be received at the Comelec Session Hall, 8th floor, Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila, September 14, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning, at which place, date and time, said sealed bids shall be opened in the presence of the members of the Bids and Awards Committee, representatives of the Commission on Elections, Commission on Audit, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, the participating bidders and the public, with an approved budget of One Hundred Fifteen Million Pesos (P115,000,000.00) charged against the appropriation of the October 29, 2007 Synchronized Barangay and SK Elections.

A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on September 11, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning at the Comelec Session Hall, 8th Floor Palacio del Gobernador Building.

Bid documents and specifications may be obtained during regular office hours beginning September 7, 2007 from the Property Division upon payment at the Cash Division, Commission on Elections, of a non-refundable amount of fifty seven thousand five hundred pesos (P57,500.00).

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to one per centum (1%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid, in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check payable to the "Commission on Elections."

Schedule of delivery shall be 50% within seven (7) days upon receipt of Notice of Award and the remaining 50% within ten (10) days upon receipt of Notice of Award.

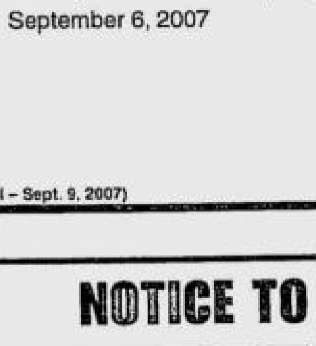
The COMELEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formal defect contained therein, and accept the lowest complying responsive bid that is most advantageous to the Commission. Likewise, it reserves the right to review the qualifications of the bidders after the bidding and before the contract is executed. Should such review uncover any change in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the COMELEC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever on the part of the COMELEC for any expense or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of its bid.

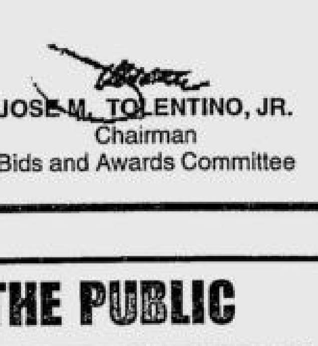
September 6, 2007

JOSE M. TOLENTINO, JR.
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 9, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC


JONATHAN VIZCARRA


MICHAEL DE MESA

This is to inform the public that **MR. JONATHAN VIZCARRA** and **MR. MICHAEL DE MESA,** whose pictures appear above, is no longer connected with **PHILIPPINE MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC. (PMSI)** effective July 31, 2007 and August 1, 2007, respectively.

Any transactions entered by them on behalf of the company shall no longer be honored.

(PDI – September 9, 2007)

POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (*"PSALM"*) Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (*the "Committee"*) invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Generation Package consisting of the 192.5 MW Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant located in Puhagan, Valencia, Negros Oriental and the 146.5 MW Panay Diesel Power Plant located in Tinocuan, Dingle, Iloilo

(*the* "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis and will include a power supply allocation. The Committee reserves the right at any time prior to the Documentary Deliverables Deadline (as defined in the Bidding Procedures) to determine the final Asset to be sold. Hence, the Asset that will be the subject of the bid may consist of both the Palinpinon Plant and the Panay Plant, the Palinpinon Plant alone, or the Panay Plant alone.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest (*"LOI"*) to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than **5:00 p.m. on 17 September 2007** (the *"LOI Submission Deadline"*). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 2,000.00) (the *"Participation Fee"*). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before **5:00 p.m. on 19 September 2007** to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **17 September until 26 September 2007** (the *"Deadline"*) at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence : 17 September 2007 to 3 December 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : 28 September 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline : 5 December, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Eight Million U.S. Dollars (U.S.$8,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guaranty prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 892-6029 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 7, 8 & 9, 2007)

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(PDI–September 9, 2007)

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(PDI-Sept. 9, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Extrajudicial settlement among his heirs of Nicanor Julius A. Abad who died 11 Aug 2005 before Notary Public Atty Socrates G. Macaranas Doc No. 57; Page No. 12; Book No. 47; Series of 2007
(PDI-Aug 26, Sept 2&9, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALBERTO MORA who died on Oct. 6, 1999 was extrajudicially settled on Aug. 24, 2007 per Doc. 450 Book VII Series of 2007 notarial register of Notary Public Dulcisimo G. Hinanay Jr. of Quezon City (PDI-Aug.26,Sept 2 & 9, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUCILA G. ALMAZAN was extrajudicially settled and partion by and among her heirs as Per Doc. No. 36; Page No. 8; Book No. 5; Series of 2007 Before Notary Public of Fernando V. Balinado
PDI–Sept. 2, 9 & 16, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUCIANO S. RAMIREZ was extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public Atty Chester Ogsimer of Paranaque City per Doc No 101; Page No 22 ;Book No I; Series of 2007
(PDI-Aug 26, Sept 2&9, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICTORIA SALUD RONQUILLO was extrajudicially settled by and among her surviving heirs. Before Atty STEPHEN G. BONGOLAN Notary Public for and in the City of Mandaluyong under Doc. No. 820; Page No. 173; Series of 2007
(PDI-Sept. 2,9,&16,2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GASPAR D. LOPEZ and PAULITA C. LOPEZ has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public SOFRONIO C. UNTALAN JR as per Doc No. 304,Page No.61, Book No.CLIV Series of 2007
(PDI-Sept. 2, 9, 16,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CEASAR MASCARDO has been extra-judicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 88, Page No. 19, Book No. XLVII, Series of 2007 before Atty. Gervacio B. Ortiz,Jr., Notary Public
(PDI-Sept. 2,9 &16,2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Meralco Stock Certificate issued to ROSANA L. DUE under Certificate No. A0144199, A0224853 and A0391505 with total no. of 195 shares. If no contest received new stock certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

Notice is hereby given of the lost of San Miguel Corporation stock certificates issued to Edmund Yu Chua, Edmund Yu Chua ITF Edsel Anthony S Yu Chua, and Edmund Chua ITF Edric Andro S. Yu Chua under stock certificate nos. B01201009, B92023344, B89005616, B89002048, B88001804, B99181509, B93034398, B92023533, B89008199, B99181508, B93034397, B92023532, & B89008200 with total no. of 1,094 shares. Should no one contest received, new stock certificates will be issued.
(PDI Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

Notice is hereby given of the loss of PETRON CORPORATION stock certificates issued to Edmund Yu Chua under stock certificate nos. 129867 & 1158355 with total no. of 2,100 shares. Should no one contest on or before September 10, 2007, new stock certificates will issued. (PDI-Aug.26,Sept.2&9,2007)

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This New York-based yearly directory features a very extensive variety of businesses and companies in the USA describing their particular business specialties, as well as acknowledging individual achievements of professionals in their respective fields. The directory is used to enhance public relations and develop mutual and beneficial business relationships.

The publication also includes Engr. Regidor who is currently a project engineer of ADCO Electrical Corporation in Staten Island, New York, which is a multi-million dollar electrical contracting and telecommunications firm, leading the electrical and telecommunications industry in the New York Metropolitan area. As project engineer, Engr. Regidor develops, designs and personally oversees projects dealing with multi-million dollar high and low voltage projects for multi-story buildings. While studying in Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Engr. Regidor was active in publications, such as the Aedificator and the White and Blue, and a student leader, being officer of different student organizations. A graduate of Lepanto High School at Lepanto Mines and Aurora Hill Elementary School. A resident of Aurora Hill, Baguio City, now he currently resides with his family in New Jersey, USA.

PHILAM LIFE

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Agent's Temporary Receipts (ATRs) listed below were reported lost/ could no longer be accounted for:

ATR BOOKLET/SERIAL NOS.

474801-474825; 474826-474850; 474851-474875; 474876-474900; 474901-474925; 474926-474950; 474891-474975; 474976-475000; 475001-475025; 475026-475050; 475051-475075; 475076-475100; 475101-475125; 475126-475150; 475151-475175; 475176-475200; 475201-475225; 475226-475250; 475251-475275; 475276-475300; 475301-475325; 475326-475350; 475351-475375; 475376-475400; 475401-475425; 475426-475450; 475451-475475; 475476-475500; 475501-475525; 475526-475550; 475551-475575; 475575-475600; 475601-475625; 475626-475650; 475651-475675; 475676-475700; 475701-475725; 475726-475750; 475751-475775; 475776-475800; 475801-475825; 475826-475850; 475851-475875; 475876-475900; 475901-475925; 475926-475950; 475951-475975; 475976-476000; 476001-476025; 476026-476050; 263101-263125.

Any transaction resulting from the issuance of the subject ATRs will not be honored by Philamlife after this publication.

(PDI--September 9, 2007)

John Clements Consultants, Inc.

Renewal of License with DOLE

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

PRPA LICENSE. M-07-09-204
TIN-000-127-206-000 ☐ New ☒ Renewal

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pursuant to the Labor Code and the Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid in the Philippines for the period 13 August 2007 to 12 August 2009 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer of use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 24th day of July 2007.

ISABEL G. PANGANIBAN ORTIGUERRA
Acting Regional Director

(Renewal of this license is thirty (30) days before expiration date)

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JOSE "JM" MENDOZA

Born: December 24, 1927
Died: September 7, 2007
At the age of 79

His remains lie in state at family residence at
Lolomboy, Bocaue, Bulacan

Holy Mass will be offered on September 12, Wednesday,
9:00 a.m. at the Parish Church of Sto. Cristo and
St. Andrew Kim at Lolomboy, Bocaue.

Interment follows at
Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park, Wakas, Bocaue.

He is survived by

Former Governor Josie, **Roger**, **Jaymee**, **Joan**, **Pepe** and **Jepoy**
Te, **Andy**, **Trina**, **EJ**, **KC** and **Jimboy**
Governor Jonjon, **Violy**, **Anjo**, **Boying** and **Baba**
Dr. Pete, **Dra. Tet** and **Nicole**
Tafi, **Bel**, **Abu** and **Miko**

Siblings:

Rodrigo Mendoza
Sr. Teofila Mendoza
Purificacion Mendoza-Victor

In lieu of flowers, the family will greatly appreciate donations to the Iluminada Roxas-Mendoza Foundation. Thank you.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

We, the family of the late

VICTORINO A. MAÑALAC

of Malolos, Bulacan

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 31, 2007

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

We find strength in knowing that he touched so many lives in his concern for others.

Please pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

Our most sincere gratitude.

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever."

JOSEPH ANDREW A. DE LAS ALAS

UP College of Architecture - 1995
Marist School - 1990

peacefully joined his Creator on September 7. 2007
at the age of 34.

His bereaved wife **Ruby**; parents **Wilhelmina** and **Jacinto** (†); brothers **Jacinto Jr.**, **Albert John**, **Jason Mari**; sister, **Ma. Angela**; parents-in-law, brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass

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PURIFICACION VILLANUEVA CABRERA

(Retired Head Teacher)

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on September 5, 2007 at the age of 76.

Her bereaved husband **Atty. Bruno S. Cabrera**, children: **Lisa, Leo, Jose, Lynn, Benson, Eileen, Elena & William**; in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in State at the St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

May she rest in peace!

Interment at Virac, Catanduanes.

"A good person will never fail; he will always be remembered."
(Psalm 112:6)

Forever in our hearts....
We remember our beloved

Atty. Jose "Pepe/Joe" Santiago Atienza

Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvestre
who joined his Maker on 10 September 1998

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated tomorrow in the following Churches:

- **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church**, Welfareville, Mandaluyong 6:00AM
- **St. Peter Parish Church**, Apalit, Pampanga 6:00AM
- **Villa San Miguel Chapel**, Archibishop's Palace, Mandaluyong 6:15AM
- **Parish of the Ressurrection**, B.F. Homes Ph. 1, Parañaque 6:15AM
- **Santuario de San Jose**, Greenhills, Mandaluyong 7:15AM
- **Immaculate Conception Cathedral**, Cubao, Quezon City 6:00 PM

His wife, **Esther M. Cacnio**; children/in-laws **Paz**, **Jun & Rae**, **Manny & Rona** and **Mike**; and grandchildren **Jella**, **Julianne**, **Justinne**, **Lyka**, **Mico** and **Tricia** request relatives, friends and readers to always remember **PEPE** in their prayers.

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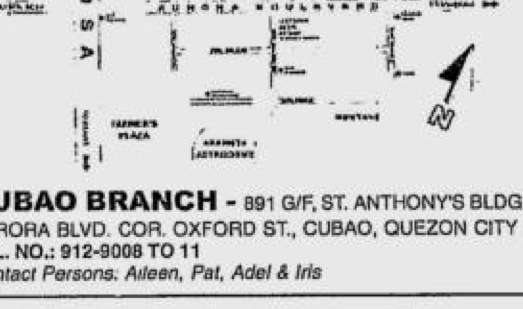

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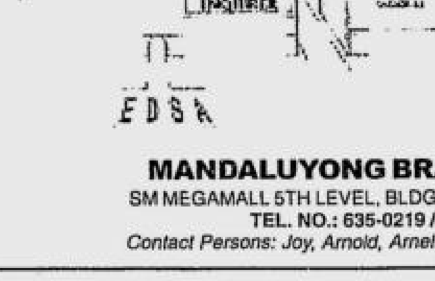

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Cashing in on vanity

By Abigail L. Ho

IT'S A BASIC PRINCIPLE IN business: before you invest your time, effort and hard-earned cash in any business, make sure that it's something you love and know inside and out.

So when her favorite nail salon, Tips 'N Toes, was on the verge of folding up in 1999, what better way for certified nail care addict Jenny Tipton-Angeles to break into the business world than by buying out the old owner and running the show herself?

"I used to be a regular client of the old Tips 'N Toes. There was a previous owner. At that time, they offered hand and feet services only. When we took over in 1999, we gave the salon a total image change," she relates.

Together with sister Margaret Tipton, who is in charge of the creative and training aspects of the business, Jenny set out to reinvent a concept that has been in the market for years.

Hip, young and cool

The image change involved broadening the nail salon's target market, Jenny says, from the previous "more mature" clientele to younger and hipper customers who want more than just the basic manicure and pedicure.

Starting 1999, Tips 'N Toes added new services—moving beyond just the hands and the feet to include hair removal, massage and, most recently, eyelash extensions.

New nail products and technologies were also brought in from abroad, enhancing its already long list of specialized services.

NAIL care is basic hygiene, not a luxury

The overall look of the salons and attendants were also changed to suit the taste of the younger crowd—with the outlets sporting bolder colors. The atmosphere is also more laid back.

"Tips 'N Toes was literally reborn in 1999. We rehashed, refurbished and systematized everything," Jenny says.

Sharing the love

Being a regular of the old Tips 'N Toes has given Jenny the chance to bond with others like her who enjoy a regular dose of pampering—ones that she now calls partners in her business.

When the nail salon opened itself to franchisees around six years ago, she relates that fellow nail care aficionados Kristine Casido and Dina Tobojka were the first to open their own Tips 'N Toes salons.

Apart from the SM Megamall and Greenbelt 1 branches that Jenny owns, Tips 'N Toes now has three more branches: one at Timog, which Kristine runs, and two at Alabang West Gate and SM Bicutan, which belong to Dina.

"The business is something I know. I don't want to go into something that I know nothing about. And nail care is definitely something that I know and love," Dina relates.

Jenny says it is important for franchisees to know what they're getting into, not only for the sake of the franchisees themselves but also for the sake of the good name that Tips 'N Toes wants to maintain.

"We don't just get anyone to franchise. They have to be like us—fans and regulars," she says.

From luxury to necessity

Unlike days of yore when going to a nail salon was seen as a luxury, Kristine says this has now turned into a necessity for many.

"Nail care is very basic, really. It's not a luxury at all," she says.

According to Jenny, many working moms go to the nail salon not just to have their nails fixed, but also to pamper themselves and bond with their daughters.

Tips 'N Toes has also become a popular venue for bridal showers, birthday parties and bonding among girlfriends, she says.

"We have a very varied clientele. We get office people, we get teenagers, and we also get celebrities," Dina relates, counting Lea Salonga, Pops Fernandez, Charlene Gonzalez and Tweetie de Leon among them.

Kristine says her Timog branch attracts a lot of celebrity clients as well, due to its proximity to the studios of warring networks ABS-CBN and GMA Network. TV personalities Ruffa Gutierrez and Mariel Rodriguez, both ABS-CBN talents, for example, are sponsored by the nail salon.

But Tips 'N Toes doesn't bank on celebrity endorsements to get new customers and retain old ones. The secret of the nail salon's continuing success is the quality of the products and services that it provides.

"We offer quality service and use all imported, environment-friendly products. All our staff members are also experts in their own fields, so customers are sure to get the best service possible," Jenny explains. "Before we hire anyone, they already have to be expert manicurists. Then we train them to be nail technicians."

Tips 'N Toes' specialty—sculptured nails—requires a lot of skill, she says. Additional training is also essential.

The nail salon's eyelash extension service, which it has been offering for a year now, also requires patience and an ample amount of dexterity.

Constant reinvention

"The eyelash extension service takes around two hours to complete, although we've heard that others can do it in just an hour. Here at Tips 'N Toes, we don't sacrifice quality for speed. We follow the 1:1 ratio—one false eyelash for one natural hair—and that takes time to complete," Dina explains.

Although already enjoying much success, she says Tips 'N Toes will continue to improve its service and ensure that it offers its customers nothing but the best and the latest products and services in the market.

"We always have to stay up to date because many other nail salons are sprouting all over the place," she says. "We always share ideas with each other, bringing technology from abroad ahead of everyone else. That's our edge over competitors."

She says Tips 'N Toes promises to stay fresh, updating itself with the latest trends in nail care and constantly reinventing itself to stay ahead of its game.

"We're very hands-on, all of us. Since what we're providing is a service, it's important to really be there and run your business yourself. And that personal touch allows us to take care of our customers better," Dina says.

KRISTINE Casido, Jenny Angeles, Margaret Tipton and Dina Tobojka.

Choice of conquest: Territories or self?

"Art of Success"
By Kim Hoo
Translated by Sun-Ae Hwang & Horace Jeffrey Hodges
New Day Publishers, 2007

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

SUCCESS IS A GOAL "DEVOUTLY to be wished" goes a famous Shakespearean line. Fame, fortune, power and expanded territories—these are the usual goals that have obsessed the devotees of success. Even in this generation, such goals animate individuals and bring "fire in the belly."

And yet, the route to success is a forked road.

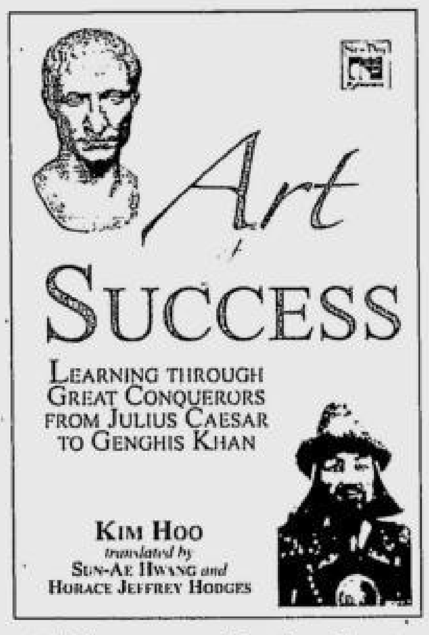
One road is the well-beaten path of following the formula of success by people ahead of us—be visible, bask in the shadow of the boss, step on others as you climb the corporate ladder, leave your friends behind—and use any virtue or vice as instruments to propel you faster toward intoxicating success.

The other road—"the road less traveled," to use a phrase usually associated with M. Scott Peck (though it is actually a line from Robert Frost)—is one that exalts virtue as the non-negotiable quality, creates real achievement without need for public applause, respect others' rights, keeps friendships and alliances intact—and never sacrifices one's principles at the altar of bogus or, at best, temporal success.

The success formula, of course, is not as clear-cut as the two distinct roads that are truly diametrically opposed. If you opt to take the "low road" to success of known conquerors, then you succeed with a sense of guilt for achieving an end with dubious means.

On the other hand, when you take the "high road" of pure virtue, all sweetness and light, with no dark corners, you turn a blind eye to the realities of human frailty and social diversity, and success eludes you.

Here comes a book that delivers a formula for success or conquest, with stories that steer clear of myths behind well-known conquerors in antiquity—and with annotations that extract meaning from such stories. And yet this book must be read with a clear "PG Warning."


Art of Success
Learning through Great Conquerors from Julius Caesar to Genghis Khan
Kim Hoo
translated by
Sun-Ae Hwang and Horace Jeffrey Hodges

This is an unusual book on how to succeed because, at first glance, the stories come across as prescriptions of using such not-so-desirable behavioral patterns as betrayal, trickery, cruelty, hypocrisy, crocodile tears, cowardice, hatred, insincere love, unabashed use of religion and ideology, expansionism, and terrorism.

This book chronicles the murder of Alexander the Great, the betrayal of Genghis Khan against one who supported him, and the Machiavellian devices of Napoleon—and many more "imperialists in their era."

Shorn of myths and romanticized notions, their stories make them less likable, and they come across more as villains, not heroes.

Actually, the author places these famous conquerors within the perspective of history, and thus we learn how to read history. After all, as one writer said, "All history is biography."

The book enables you to know these conquerors up close—full of warts and all, so you can sift virtue from vice, right from wrong, the exemplary and the despicable.

Thankfully, the author has a warning in his preface: "For a long time, historians avoided the evil conduct committed by conquerors to make them seem greater than life and deserving respect. But actually, they also betrayed, fled during battle, treated love like a business deal, and sacrificed close friends without hesitation for specific aims."

The book has shown that these conquerors are mortals—giving us a caveat that our rulers, charged with the common weal, are sometimes forced to compromise pure virtue or else abdicate the throne.

Another quote rings true for our current generation of leaders: "He who betrayed you once is very likely to betray you a second time." Haven't we been disappointed by an official who does not keep his or her word?

Love, our most cherished value, is to these conquerors simply a strategy for subjugation of a country. The book cites love—or what passes for it—as a negotiable instrument for alliance among empires.

The most famous case is the merging of forces by Julius Caesar and Cleopatra—with an insight from the author: The Serpent of the Nile gained much more from such an alliance.

While this book has value for those preoccupied with political power, it is also useful—if not more so—in corporate boardrooms and executive suites where conquests abound and the vanquished lick their wounds.

For example, "the leader must be feared, not loved." "A little cruelty"—ruthlessness, in our modern day world—is needed to instill discipline. Deception is a standard competitive weapon. Sun Tzu's advice is milder: "You can pretend to be weak if you are strong."

And yet something bugs our mind. How do these so-called "success secrets" of famous conquerors stand alongside that Solitary Life, who in his earthly life did not use dubious means to achieve a noble end?

The book highlights the central truth about these historical figures with this statement: "What conquerors protect is not the world of the mind but their territories." What about this famous Nazarene who chose to touch the mind, stir the soul—and, as many historians will agree, who "turned the world upside down"?

If at all, this book makes clear to us our fundamental choices. You go for conquest of territories, and so you must be prepared to abandon things that and who are precious to you. You go for conquest of the self, and all that are precious and noble remain. It is actually the choice of a lifetime. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

Prioritizing your people

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IF YOU'VE READ ONE OF MY BOOKS before, you probably know about the Pareto Principle, which says that focusing on the top 20 percent of your priorities will produce 80 percent of the results you desire, while focusing on the bottom 80 percent of your priorities will only produce only 20 percent of the results you desire.

I've found that most leaders agree that the 80/20 principle works great when it comes to prioritizing their finances and their time. Yet, I've also noticed that many leaders fail to apply it to people.

Author Waylon Moore said, "We spend priority time with problem people when we should be spending priority time with potential people."

Most leaders don't have much trouble investing their time and money in the things that bring the greatest return because the results can usually be seen. However, that's not necessarily the case when you apply the 80/20 principle to people.

Sometimes, it can take months or even years to reap the rewards of prioritizing your people. But when you think about it, there's no other way to maximize the potential of your organization.

It's your job to invest your best time in your best people. Like a coach during tryouts, you must be able to discern whom the key players are, then position them where their gifts will best advance the team toward victory.

To find your key players, put people with potential up to the following Leadership Approval Tests:

1. The Influence Test

Your key people must have a degree of influence with the rest of your people. Otherwise, they will have trouble leading others to carry out the tasks before them. Make sure you're spending time with the people who will help you inspire positive change in your organization.

2. The Relationship Test

Determine how your potential leaders relate to the rest of your people. Are they on good terms? Do others consider them their friend? The people with the greatest potential won't have burned too many bridges.

3. The Credibility Test

Another requirement of your top priority people is that they have a good reputation. Are your potential leaders respected by your people? Do others come to them with their problems? Your potential leaders must have established a foundation of trust with others in order to lead them.

4. The Spiritual Test

Many leaders overlook this aspect of leadership, but I believe it's the most important when determining your key players. A potential leader who obeys God is in a much better position to succeed than one who ignores God's will for his life.

5. The Administrative Test

Your potential leaders must also show that they can discern what is best for the rest of your people. Do your potential leaders have a track record of making wise decisions? Do others seek their advice? If you would trust a potential leader's advice, chances are very good that others would as well.

6. The Attitude Test

The last requirement of key players is that they have the right attitude toward serving their peers. True leadership requires serving others full time. How do your potential leaders view leadership? Are they unselfish? Are they team players? For your potential leaders to be an asset to you and the rest of your team, they must be ready and willing to serve.

How did your potential leaders fare? Did they pass the Approval Tests on every point? If you want to invest in your best people you must develop a good system for determining who your leaders are.

For your organization to be effective, you must be effective at positioning your key players for success.

Remember that the wrong people in the wrong place will lead to failure. And the right people in the wrong place will lead to frustration. But when the right people are positioned in the right place, and are given the right tools by their leader, maximum effectiveness is realized.

(For information on John Maxwell 's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Jesi or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

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The company of *heaven*

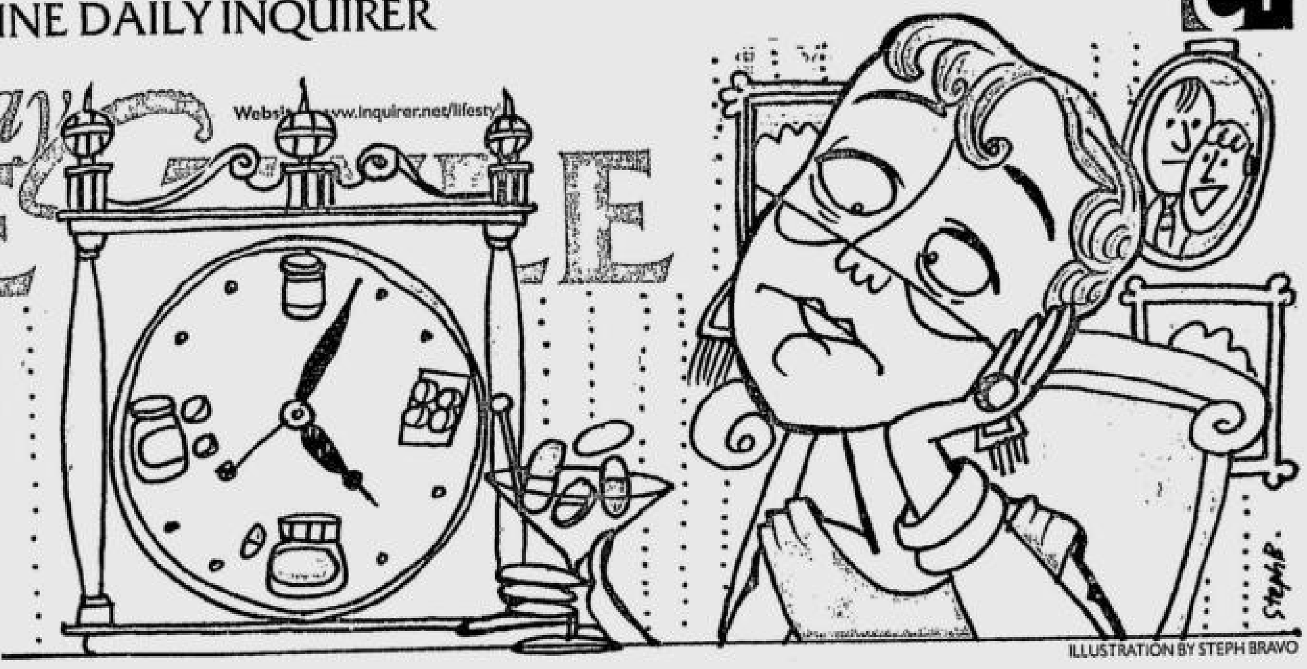

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

I'VE NEVER FELT SO OLD as when I turned 77. I have washed my face approximately 85,768 times, walked the same corridor of my house for 47 years, lived with the same man for 55 years. I wonder if I should still replace our wine-colored carpet that has covered our *sala* for 22 years or will it be good enough until we die? Daily I take a cocktail of, alas, not a martini—but of Dilatrend, Vastarel, Gliclazide, Vidastat, Glucophage, Pritor. Like many old people I wonder if maybe these pills are just the glue that keeps my body together and if I one day breathe too hard everything will disintegrate.

Before my husband and I left for a vacation, Nit Gutierrez, my best friend in high school, died of a heart attack, and earlier, Dad's Yale classmate, Ting Santiago, of pneumonia. When we got back Ben Encarnacion was dead and so was Garding Guevara. Some are into wheelchairs and some are into comas.

"Everyone on this table has thanatopsis," 83-year-old Alex Reyes, Dad's UP gang mate declares sweepingly, referring to his contemporaries (us) with whom he has this once-a-month lunch. They say one of the problems of old people is that they are reluctant to take a bath. But not this group. They are fragrant and well-groomed, and have smart new clothes, their problem is they do not like to use hearing aids and are terribly loud in restaurants.

Some years back I used to have lunch with Lolo Armando Malay before he, too, became Thanatopsis. Before me it was his best buddy that Lolo Mando was having lunch with. "There's a ringing in my ears," he was perpetually complaining, "There's a ringing in my ears." The friend got so pissed off with Lolo Mando's endless complaints so one day he retorted, "*Bakit di mo sagutin?*" They never spoke to each other again.

I don't like to deal with things that ring either and in fact have a combative relationship with any machine, even a rice cooker. But since Dad got me this new CD player and this cell phone, I've been softening up. When I turn the CD player on, it says "Hello" and when I turn it off, it says "See you." What a polite machine! A voluptuous yellow Smiley, too, glows at me when I turn on my cell phone. I find Danny Dalena's weekly text, and this time it is: Improve Your Vocabulary: Pack—*empake*; pack—*mag-sex*; pack—*ginagamit sa* hockey; pack—*pinagkasunduan*; pack—*kaalaman*; packs—*bulutong*. If I don't receive a green joke from Danny I will know he is dead.

> It is so romantic for a geriatric couple to have a hair dye together in the same parlor

Adjustment

Actually old age isn't that bad. You adjust to your ailments—like you learn to take enough pills in your handbag just in case you get hostaged. I like the halo over ageing people's heads which is actually the reflected light of balding spots. It makes those crotchety guys look so holy. I find nothing more romantic than a geriatric couple having a hair dye together in the same parlor.

When you get old, things you have always taken for granted are gone. Like most tableware now is stainless steel and has this malevolent, soul-less glint. Drinking glasses don't have a brilliant shine anymore and do not "ping" as smartly when you strike it.

Clothes of pure cotton are almost gone too except in designer shops, so who wants that? ABC cotton used to be the most common thing in the '30s, two pesos a meter from the Chinese "ropa" vendor who goes door to door. Today my daughter-in-law Bing Bing has fallen in love with a Pucci print dress which to me is so 1950s old hat but to her is so "in," so retro.

You can tell how old a person is when they give P100 to an *apo* for *me-*

THE COMPANY/ C3

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"Training future leaders is a hard task, but Sun makes our job easier by keeping us all connected at 50% less the cost."

Junior Chamber International-Manila (Manila Jaycees) President, Louie Basilio

The country has changed a lot since the Manila Jaycees held its first organizational meeting sixty years ago. But its character has stayed consistent – it continues to be seen as a "University of Leaders", with its members as its students, leadership development as its curriculum and the world as its campus.

And Sun, of course, keeps them all together.

The Manila Jaycees was organized to help each member reach new heights in their respective careers and become leaders in their communities. Sun now helps them carry out their plans of success. With most members choosing Sun, communication is easier, faster and more convenient. Reminders regarding community development projects, skill development programs and seminars are easily circulated via text-messaging.

"We can be in touch with members anywhere, all the time," says Manila Jaycees President, Louie Basilio. "There's no need to cut calls short. No need to worry about texting too much. For urgent meetings, we can even teleconference because of the truly unlimited calls of Sun! We save a lot of time and money, thanks to Sun."

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Through hard work, dedication and vision, Metrobank Foundation's 2007 awardees are making a big difference in the lives of students and communities

THE 10 outstanding teachers of 2007 are (not in order) Fredo T. Laureles, Jeneluj Cunanan, Madeline Rivera, Leticia Palle, Glendale Lamiseria, Ruben Abucayon, Norma Pacaigue, Cynthia Bangero, Benilda Santos, Cesar Saloma, during awards night at the Metrobank Plaza Auditorium in Makati.

Meet 10 outstanding teachers

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE SON OF FREDO T. LAURELES did not bring the cartolina his father assigned the class. With tears in his eyes, the boy had to promise 10 times that he would come prepared next time.

Laureles, Grades 4 and 5 Work Education teacher at the Ateneo de Manila Grade School, says, "There were plenty of cartolina in the school shop, so my son thought he could get one. But those were school property; he should have asked from me at home. Parents congratulated me for being fair, without special treatment for my son."

Laureles, on the job for 36 years, is one of the 10 Outstanding Teachers of 2007 recently awarded by Metrobank Foundation. Laureles authors Gospel Komiks, and every Holy Week, he travels to Mindoro Oriental to live with Mangyans and dedicate himself to their welfare.

Grade school awardees

Jeneluj C. Cunanan, Grade 6 English teacher at Central Elementary School in Kidapawan City, nurtures excellence. She coaches her pupils in essay and oratory, and they recently topped the National Achievement Test in their division.

Cunanan plays counselor, too. "My 14-year-old student was cruel and harsh. A product of war and a broken family, he thought he was above the law. At first, he would not listen to advice. For three months, I counseled him daily. He became a kinder person."

Madeline P. Rivera, Grade 6 Geography, History and Civics teacher at San Pablo Central School in Laguna, was former national champion coach in the Makabayan Quiz Bee. "I make teaching meaningful, for the person who opens a school door closes a prison."

Rivera is rooted in her hometown, having studied there her whole life. She has taught in the same barangay for 18 years, and also heads the town's Bantay Dagat program.

Leticia N. Palle, Grade 6 Math teacher at Malaybalay City Central School in Bukidnon, did not like Math at first. But inspired by her father, Palle now makes Math fun by composing songs, games and outdoor activities. Her students have topped the regional contests and chess tournaments.

Palle opts to serve where she is needed most. "Last summer, I was offered a position at a university, with more compensation and opportunities. My colleagues begged me not to transfer. I did not want to turn away from them, but I wanted to improve my livelihood. I prayed to the Blessed Sacrament. In the end, I realized that I became a teacher to serve, not for the pay."

High school awardees

Another Math teacher, Glendale B. Lamiseria, guides third- and fourth-year students at Dulag National High School in Leyte. She also spearheads entrepreneurship there.

"Teachers from different subjects collaborate to help students integrate what they learn and apply to real life. Today, all our students have savings in the school. They need financial skills to survive in the world."

Lamiseria, my student in graduate school, is patient and hardworking. She and her husband lived in a *barong-barong* for two years, but with determination, they were able to transfer to a better home. Lamiseria also teaches computer skills to out-of-school youth, reducing unemployment in the town.

Ruben L. Abucayon, second and fourth--year Science teacher at Alegria National High School in Surigao del Norte, grew up in "a *nipa* hut, where farming was the only source of living." But he has always dreamed of being a teacher.

His biology thesis on energy and nutrients is now a reference book, and he urges his students to become involved in technology and environment programs. Awarded Most Outstanding Science Club Adviser in Caraga, Abucayon tells them, "Life is what you make it. Do not exchange your future for momentary pleasure. Prioritize education."

Norma C. Pacaigue, a fourth-year History teacher at Novaliches High School in Quezon City, is a survivor. Despite having undergone nine operations, she continues to teach human rights and peace issues.

Pacaigue is active in the parish, the homeowners association, the school cooperative, the parent-teacher group, the philatelic society. "My health problems never hinder me from performing my duties as wife, mother, teacher, and community member," she says.

Cynthia B. Bangero, first- and second-year English teacher at Barotac Viejo National High School in Iloilo City, was born to teach. When she was young, she held classes for relatives and friends under the trees. Bangero came from a poor family, but she received scholarships that enabled her to finish school.

Bangero never gives up. "I am an English major, but a few years ago, I had to substitute for the physics teacher. I studied hard every night so my students would never know that I was just a few pages ahead of them."

College awardees

Caesar A. Saloma, Physics professor at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Quezon City, has co-invented a US-patented method of generating optical images. He received the International Galileo Galilei Award.

Saloma is a researcher, but along the way, he became a teacher, too. "I have never had any role model, but I discard my teachers' weaknesses and improve upon their strengths. I have mentored 16 doctoral graduates who may not command the adulation of actors and politicians in our society, but are highly regarded in the academic community."

Benilda S. Santos, Filipino professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, is a prolific poet, essayist and author. She helped translate the 1986 election primers in English into Filipino.

"My biggest challenge in teaching Filipino was the Ateneans' predilection for English, which made them resist learning Filipino. But I persevered, changing my method when necessary, even adapting Western styles of reading Filipino. I let my students think their own thoughts, and I helped those who were willing to work hard to become writers. I teach love of country through literature."

Kudos to our outstanding teachers!

Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Protecting daughters from cervical cancer

THE FILIPINO YOUTH'S SEXUAL behavior is growing riskier by the year. More and more young men and women are placing themselves in danger of contracting dreaded sexually transmitted diseases, foremost of which is the killer called cervical cancer. In spite of the alarming statistics, the jury is still out on the HPV, or anti-cervical cancer vaccine.

To vaccinate or not to vaccinate continues to be a dilemma, a debatable subject, among most Filipino mothers.

At a round table discussion at the Manila Peninsula last week, Dr. Christine Palma, head of the Gynecologic Oncology section of St. Luke's Medical Center, said that in the 1993 Philippine Demographic and Health Survey and the 1998 National Statistics Office Survey, the median ages of first sexual contacts were 21.8 years old and 22.1 years old, respectively.

However, in a more recent study, the 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (a nationwide study of 20,000 adolescents aged 15 to 27) revealed that the age of first sex is getting younger. It showed that 1.2 percent of both young males and females had already engaged in sex before they turned 13 years old. The figures rose sharply when the study looked into "engaged in sex before age 18" where it displayed a probability of 12 percent among females and 28 percent of males. The study also showed that 23 percent of young people have engaged in premarital sex (31.1 percent in boys and 15.4 percent in girls).

First vaccine

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, locally distributed by Merck as Gardasil, was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June 2006 as "the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions and genital warts due to HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18."

The rise in cervical cancer cases parallels the rise in 'first-time sex' among the young

HPV-16 and HPV-18 account for about 70 percent of all cervical cancers affecting the cervix, which connects the vagina to the uterus. HPV-6 and HPV-11 account for about 90 percent of genital warts. Most women with HPV infection don't develop cervical cancer. The vaccine protects against leading causes of cervical cancer, but it doesn't ward off other causes of cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the Philippines and in the world. According to the 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Statistics, 52 percent of those afflicted with cervical cancer will die within five years of diagnosis. Worldwide, cervical cancer comprises 12 percent of all cancers in women, while 80 percent of all cases are found in developing countries, such as the Philippines.

Gardasil is the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions and genital warts due to HPV. HPV causes genital warts in men and women. The vaccine is highly effective against HPV types 6 and 11, which cause approximately 90 percent of genital warts, and HPV types 16 and 18, which cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer.

According to the CDC, the Advisory Committee on Immunization practices (ACIP) recommends that the vaccine be routinely given to girls when they are 11-12 years old. The ACIP recommendation also allows for vaccination of girls beginning at age 9 as well as vaccination of girls and women 13-26 years old.

Dr. Cynthia Cuayo Juico, of the Department of Pediatrics at the Manila Doctor's Hospital and the School Health Program of the Philippine Pediatrics Society, said the vaccine is a significant development in women's health, but adds that the PPS has yet to make an official stand on whether it should be included in routine vaccination.

Further studies

"Even in the United States, not all states have included it in their mandatory protocol," Juico said.

Mother to a 20-year-old daughter herself, Dr. Juico believes that there is no harm in waiting it out. "I'd like to see further studies. Also, if you are a parent, you must know your child—is my daughter promiscuous? Does she have the propensity to be? Then again, even if she is not, there is no discounting the danger that her future partner or husband will not have a colorful sexual history."

Cost is another issue that Dr. Juico is concerned about. "It's hard to routinely give out a vaccine that costs approximately P6,000 per shot, and that is times three," However, the cost of treating cervical cancer, if and when it hits, is higher—financially, physically and emotionally.

Noting the high rise in sexual

PROTECTING/C3

The company of heaven

From page C1

rienda and a movie, and tells him to give back the change. Septuagenarian women have never in their teenage-hood experienced a "Dutch treat" date, much less paid for a boyfriend's lunch. They are quite mercenary and are experts at making others feel guilty.

Just as young

I have a very different life with my young friends though. Even if they help me over humps and stairs and edit my rouge I feel I am their age. My contemporaries are just too old for me. Georgina says, in the coming Golden Age, people who've prepared for it will never grow old. Yes, she says, pointing at me, misty eyed. You are one of them! Your age will reverse! And when my knees don't hurt, when my eyes don't water, when I do not have a skipped beat, when my sugar is low, I believe her. Georgina makes death seem so cool.

Young people make my day. When I go to the beauty parlor, my young gay shampooer greets me, "*Ano ang* drama *natin ngayon?*" "*Paki-patong dito ang mahiwaga ninyong* hairbrush." He wants to know if I want my hair set the straight soldierly way or "break wilding" which is his term for a zigzag set.

Myrza Sison and I celebrated our last birthday jointly, inviting only two of her favorite friends—JR Isaac and Kate Torralba, and three of mine—Manny Chaves, Cecile Zamora and Raymond Lee. "How many boyfriends did you have?" Kate asked me. "About four or five," I said. They were properly impressed. I didn't realize that "boyfriend" today didn't just mean a male friend, but assumes it's someone you sleep with as well.

There are many jobs today that weren't there in the '50s, said JR who is an "events organizer." That is one job. Another is "wedding coordinator" who supervises who marches with whom in the church, helps set up with the boring video, etc.; "publicist" who can place one's press releases in every newspaper, also "Dance Instructor," "acupuncturist," "caregiver." Then there are the people who work in call centers, pizza and Chinese food deliveries, weight loss clinics, unisex beauty parlors, women giving communion, etc.

Flea-market shopping

Sometimes I go to Bangkal, Makati, with Sylvia Mayuga and my nephew Butch Santos who wasn't born till I was in college. We eat Jude's lovely lunch in Fat Michael and look over the *ukay-ukay* of the neighborhood. Once I brought my other nephew there, Papo Pardo, who was a Madrigal singer. We wandered around and into a small art gallery at the corner. On its sidewalk was a fantastic piano whose body had been created by a crazy sculptor. Soon Papo was playing on the piano and singing opera. There was a moon and then Karen Flores and Noel Quizon dropped in and soon we were dancing all over the sidewalk.

Isa Lorenzo has this magnificent photo gallery where I met a girl called CD (Christine Dy) who was painting strands of hair all over the monumental walls for a week. She brought me and our other friend Lyra Garcellano to watch her do "pole dancing." It is a slimming class where you climb this pole and gyrate just like a cage dancer in a night club. They urged me to try it (but I knew better; oh yes, that's another of the new jobs) I heard there's also "chair dancing" which is really a simulated strip tease act. These kids are really on to something. They know how to let off steam without getting into trouble.

My also young *babaylan* friends, Bong and Pi, are still in Davao, trying to set up a healing center in a biodynamic farm out in the boondocks. Troy, Chat, Becky, Janelle, Joy, Lisette are back and I had a fantastic inner dance healing session with 20-somethings like Nathaniel and Joe Mar and Justin. They are all very old souls and I think they will save the world.

It is midnight, the end of the whirling vortex that is my day's young life. Everything is still. I can do now anything I fancy—meditate, write, paint, dance by myself (wildly) till all hours. This time no demons will come even if I'm painting a disturbing subject. Or a lewd one. A girl moon-bathing in Venus, naked, of course. My beloved is snoring peacefully in the bedroom coexisting with undigested fruit and dreams. Il Divo are singing a passionate love song. Would that the moment hold forever, that we do not die tonight.

"Bad Kings" won the Manila Critics Circle Award, Best Children's Book on Aug. 30, 2007 and "The Last Full Moon" (UP Press) won the National Book Award for "Best Biography," 2006. GCF Books are available at Fully Booked, Power Books Greenbelt 4, Megamall, Alabang and TriNoma; National Bookstore Shangri-La, Greenhills, Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1, Podium and Alabang; Popular Bookstore, QC; Solidaridad Bookstore Padre Faura; Datelines, Cubao Shoe Expo and A Different Bookstore, all branches.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Naga marks feast of 'Ina'

DEVOTEES OF OUR LADY OF Peñafrancia from all over the Philippines will travel to Naga City to attend the fluvial procession starting 3 p.m., Sept. 15.

The procession will start from the Metropolitan Cathedral to the Naga Bridge where a barge awaits. The barge will be pulled by *voyadores*, boatmen with a *panata*, toward the Basilica de Peñafrancia where a Concelebrated Mass will welcome the Virgin.

Both sides of the riverbank will be lined with people carrying lighted candles. The sight of the Virgin assures them their prayers will be answered.

In 1994, my friend Noel Hermogeno and I waited at the lower roof of Fr. Rex Hidalgo's parents' house facing the river. When she came, I closed my eyes and asked to be able to join the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus' pilgrimage to Europe and Turkey. And I did.

'Ina' in Metro Manila

The image, affectionately called "Ina" by devotees, will be brought to Manila Cathedral from Jones Bridge in a procession for a Concelebrated Mass at 6 p.m. today. Daet Bishop Nestor Cariño will officiate with Bicol priests.

The Manila event is organized by Metro Manila devotees headed by Dr. Charito Felipe and lawyer Ed Castelo.

For the past three days, Novena Masses were said at St. Andrew Church in Bel-Air. The image leaves at 2:30 p.m. for the cathedral in a fluvial procession along Pasig River via a motorcade to the Mandaluyong Port. From there, a barge will bring "Ina" to Jones Bridge.

Here is a prayer to the Virgin of Peñafrancia composed by Msgr. Florencio C. Yllana.

Prayer

"Turn to me thine sweet eyes, oh most loving Virgin of Peñafrancia, and have mercy on my soul that comes to thee full of repentance. Protect my family, my relatives, my friends and benefactors. Intercede for your devotees, both the living and the dead, especially for those whom I am most obliged to help.

"Pray for me, console me and save me. In my hours of peril, adversity and affliction, above all, in the hour of my death, appear before your divine Son to help me and defend me. Tell Him that I am your devotee, that having complete trust in your protection, I kneel before thy miraculous image to ask for your powerful intercession (mention your petition).

"Virgin of Peñafrancia, pray for me, help me, console me and deliver me from all evil. Amen."

FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos with former Senator Helena Benitez and Dean Harold Galang of the PWU School of Music

Pilgrims

For the fourth consecutive year, Catholics will gather to honor Our Lady under her title Mediatrix of All Grace.

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, and Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles are calling on the faithful to join the national pilgrimage to the Carmelite Monastery in Lipa on Sept. 12, Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace is enthroned there.

The prayer rally is for world peace and the sanctification of the clergy. This year's theme is the prayer of consecration to Mary by St. Louis Grignon di Montfort.

Bazaar

The Jesus the Divine Healer Parish in Tahanan Village, Sucat, Parañaque City, will hold a bazaar to celebrate our Blessed Mother's birthday Sept. 9, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Tahanan Multi-Purpose Hall.

Proceeds will go to the maintenance of the parish. In charge of the bazaar is Vina Reyes, wife of former Press Secretary Rod Reyes who heads the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration committee.

Opera

God is made real through culture and the arts, according to former First Lady Imelda Marcos during a press conference by the School of Music of the Philippine Women's University at Manila Manor Hotel.

She gave her support to the 60th anniversary celebration of PWU's School of Music of which she is honorary chair. The opera "Mayo—Bisperas ng Liwanag" will be staged Sept. 11-12, 8 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Fides Cuyugan Asensio did the libretto and lyrics for Nick Joaquin's "May Day Eve." Music was by the late Rey Paguio. Harold Galang is dean of PWU's School of Music. Ana Feleo plays Agueda, while Jonathan Badon is Salvador Montiya. Anastacia will be played by Kitchie Molina with Elites Cariño as understudy.

Divine sponsor

How Fr. Jun Lingad, SDB, goes on the air reflecting on the Gospel at 6:30 a.m. every Sunday on ABC 5 without sponsors is truly a miracle. He is amazed that P80,000 in expenses are met every week.

The "Word Made Flesh" television show first appeared Sept. 4, 2004, although the radio program was first aired Feb. 22, 2002, 8 p.m., on Radio Veritas (846 khz).

The program is managed by the Word Made Flesh Foundation Inc. of which Father Jun is president. Visit www.ffi-us.org or text 0917-8330863. Donations may be deposited to BPI account number 011-1653-62 (pesos) or 0014-1512-06 (dollars).

Free surgery

To mark its fourth founding anniversary, Balagtas Doctors' Hospital in Balagtas, Bulacan, will conduct free elective surgery for poor patients, preferably from Bulacan towns Sept. 12-14.

Dr. Flor Mendoza, general surgeon, heads the surgical team. Surgeries will be performed on people with goiter and hernia.

Call Jim P. Barbosa at 0920-9440544 or the head nurse, 0917-5171346.

Holy Feast

The Servants of the Risen Christ at Monasterio de Tarlac in San José, Tarlac, will hold a special Mass Sept. 14, 9 a.m., feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Bishop Florentino Cinenze is main celebrant. Veneration of the Holy Relic will follow.

Newly ordained Antipolo Auxiliary Bishop Francisco de Leon will say his Thanksgiving Mass Sept. 10, 10 a.m., at St. Andrew Cathedral in La Huerta, Parañaque. Bishop De Leon is a native of Parañaque.

Environmental wardens meet

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS AND LIGHTING Inc., in partnership with Worldwide Fund for Nature-Philippines (WWF-P), will stage "Wardens of the World" Sept. 13-15 at the Grand Atrium activity area of Shangri-La Plaza mall on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

The three-day event will showcase solutions for efficient energy use through simple steps, such as changing a light bulb, to fight global warming.

Aimed at educating schoolchildren on energy saving and reducing greenhouse emissions, it hopes to turn students into energy wardens of the world.

The activity is part of the campaign of the global lighting industry leader and WWF-P to help combat climate change through awareness programs on global warming.

The partners are promoting simple and practical energy-management ways.

Energy-saving alternative bulbs will save people money. The environment will also benefit from lower energy consumption and indirect carbon dioxide reduction.

Students are encouraged to bring their incandescent bulbs and exchange for Philips energy-saver lamps for free.

Protecting daughters . . .

From page C2

promiscuity among the youth, Juico's team has a program to raise awareness regarding STDs and cancer. The PPS offers these enlightening sexual health workshops to all schools both private and public. Moral guidance and knowing your teen appear to be two critical areas of consideration. The key here is to not be in denial. As a parent, you do your best to promote abstinence, but in spite of this, if you feel that your daughter is already engaging in risky sexual behavior, then it is also your moral responsibility to enlighten her about the dangers of her actions and see to it that she gets protected from all possible dangers, such as contracting HPV.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Red Ribbon

Must-Have Cake for September

Ube Cake

*Delicate chiffon cake
made with rich ube. Covered with delectable
cream frosting and ube crumbs.*

*Taste our Must-Have Cake for September.
It's a uniquely delicious Filipino treat!*

It's Whatever the celebration, *more* beautiful with a Red Ribbon®

Free cake lifter with every purchase of Ube Cake (junior, regular, medium or large cake)

Promo period: September 1 to 30, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3094. Series of 2007.

Spend golden moments with Lolo and Lola!

Celebrate Grandparents' Day At SM Supermalls

It's that one special day in a year when we get to honor and show our special love to our parents' parents! Enjoy a whole day of fun and excitement with Lolo and Lola at SM Supermalls on Grandparents' Day, September 9, 2007. Treat them for lunch, take them to an afternoon of music, shop with them and capture memorable photos with your dear Lolo and Lola... all at SM Supermalls!

Dahil labSMo si Lolo at Lola...

I-treat sila ngayong Grandparents' Day September 9!

SM
SUPERMALLS

Sunday LIFESTYLE

THIS group of freestanding ground chimes, "Concerto," is meant to fill the park with good vibe.

LIFESTYLE GOES TO BONIFACIO HIGH STREET

Alfresco art appreciation

Anyone and everyone who wanders into this park can look at, touch, even listen to the installations

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IT MAY BE CALLED HIGH Street and looks distinctively posh but the new Ayala Malls project in The Fort gives new meaning to the idea of making art accessible to the public.

In collaboration with the Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc. (Bafi), Ayala has turned the park of the sprawling complex of low, colorful commercial and dining establishments into an open-air art gallery. The five pieces of modern sculpture are whimsical and intriguing. Unlike in most museums where people can only gaze at the artwork from a safe distance, anyone and everyone who wanders into the Bonifacio High Street park can look at, touch, even listen to the installations.

Kids have even found one of the pieces an interesting new play structure—climbing over and crawling under it and, no doubt, wondering all along why it does not look like any of the usual things they see in playgrounds.

Reggie Yuson's gravity-defying boulder fountain is a new and unusual take on water-garden accessory. A huge rock dripping water is held aboveground by three curved posts, seemingly too frail to hold such a heavy load. "Specific Gravity" is a dramatic way to call attention to the powerful and ever-present force that keeps everything on earth from flying across the universe.

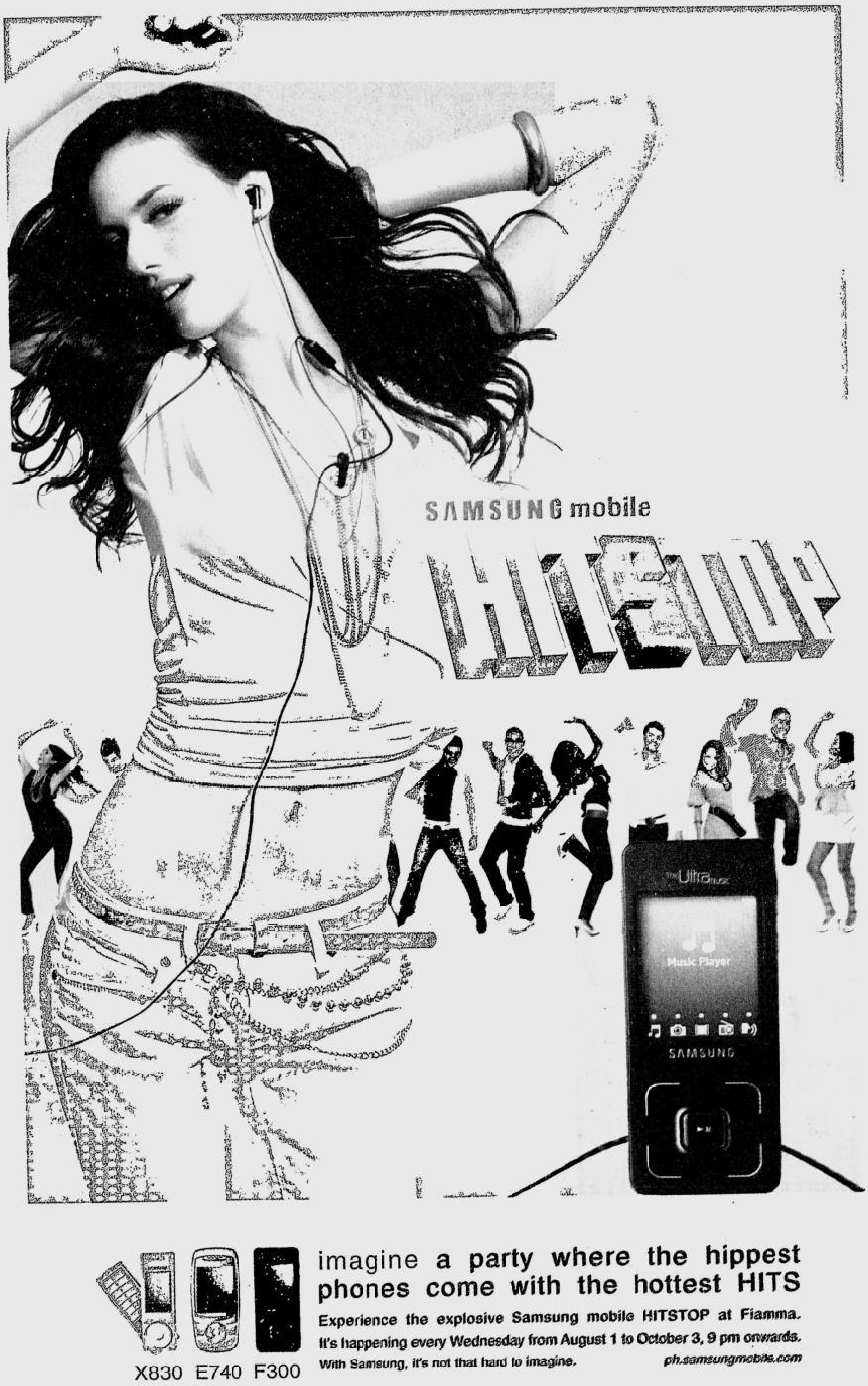
Yuson's intriguing—though fun for the

ALFRESCO/ D3

"SPECIFIC Gravity" calls attention to the force that keeps everything on earth.

CANTILEVERED "Unbearable Lightness" looks like a ramp for skateboarding.

LIGHT-BLUE bear-like installation is meant as a reminder of how a smog-free, clear sky looks.



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It's happening every Wednesday from August 1 to October 3, 9 pm onwards.
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Samsung Customer Contact Center TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel.

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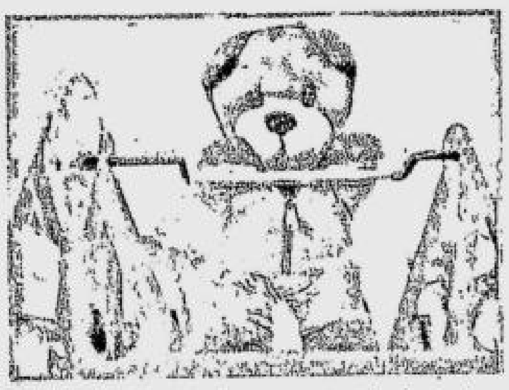
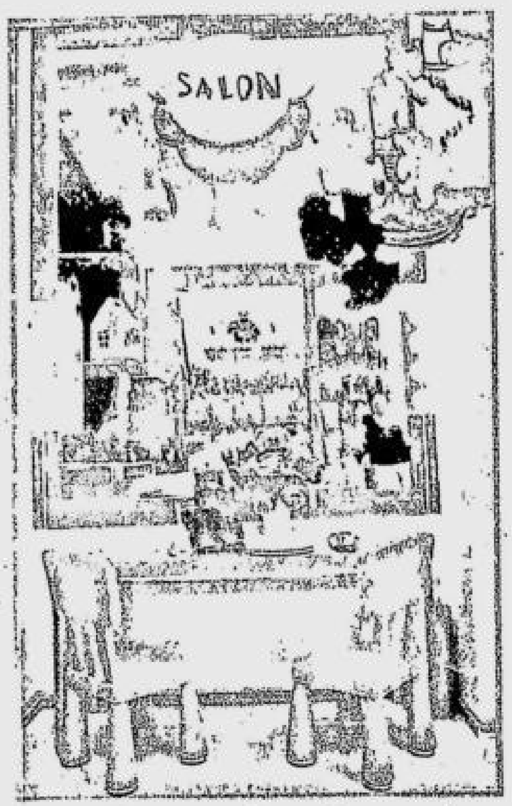


THIS hardworking bear rotates the lever to churn out hypoallergenic fluff for your toy.

KIKAY accessories for your fashionista toy



A SALON for your makeover!

Toys for all ages

Text by Irene C. Perez
Photos by Ryan Lim

TUNNELS, costumes, boa feathers and buntings make every photo shoot a fiesta for kids.

FUN SPECIALTY SHOPS IN BONIFAcio High Street will probably make kids—perhaps even kids-at-heart—do cartwheels.

A stuffed toy haven will give their favorite bear a "heart," pamper it in a "salon" or treated in a "hospital."

A photo booth lets little girls be an angel, a princess or a mermaid. Sporty daddies and restless boys will likely be awed by the rows and rows of bicycles.

Animaland

In Animaland, kids can personalize their stuffed toy to the smallest detail, from the name to the outfit, shoes, stuffing.

The process starts with the choice of a "skin." Favorites are pooches, bunnies, unicorns and candy-colored bears, although the store also has tigers and small cats, turtles, even seahorses!

The Stuffing Machine fills a toy with hypoallergenic fluff. Before it is sealed, it will

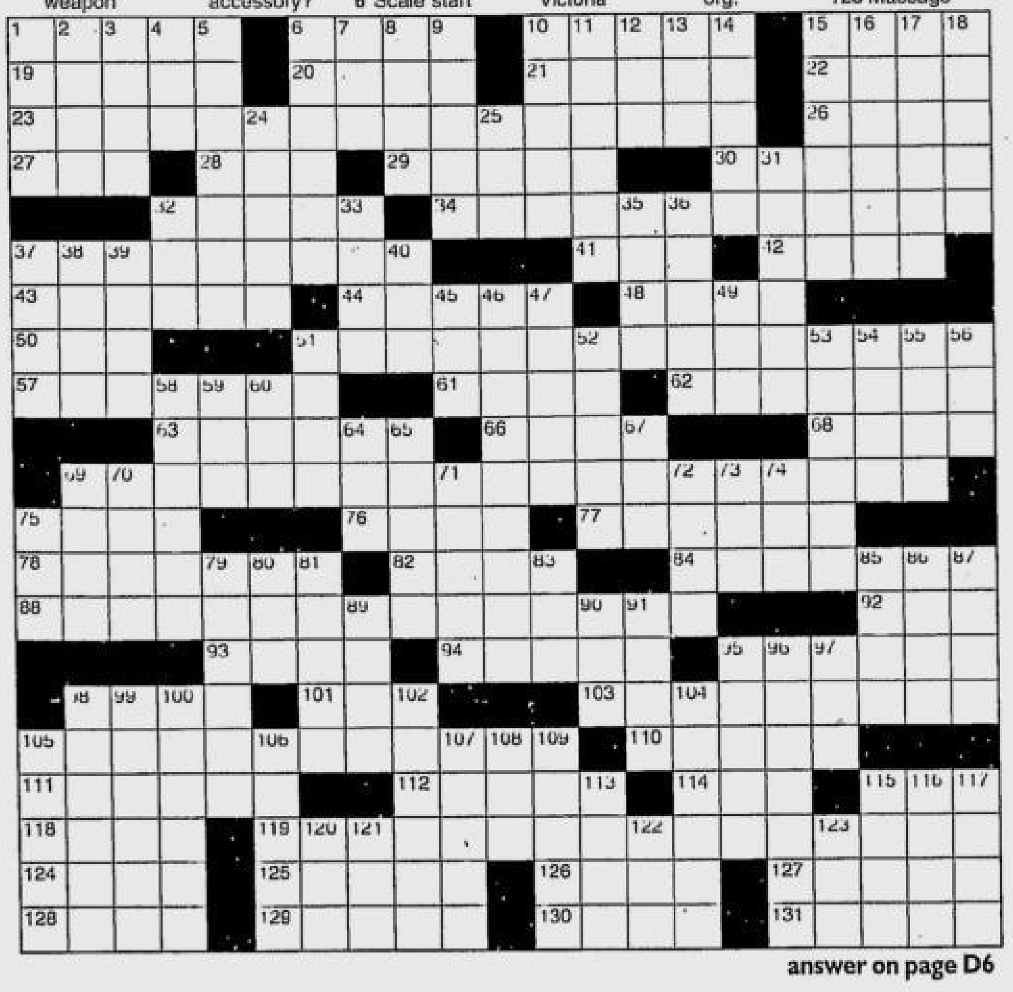
TOYS/ D4

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo OR NOT TWO P's

ACROSS
1 Backup strategy
6 Prima donna
10 Showery month
15 Ball hitters
19 The vowels
20 Translucent gem
21 Muse of lyric poetry
22 Provo site
23 Serenade the apartment manager?
26 Capital of Italia
27 Grain for horses
28 Opponent
29 Silverware piece
30 Breadwinner
32 Poppa's partner
34 Had an expectation while flying?
37 Pouting while swimming?
41 Comic actor DeLuise
42 Punching tools
43 Female graduate
44 "Read my lips: — taxes"
48 Boxer's weapon
50 Martini need
51 Drank too much from a wine menu?
57 Has hawklike vision
61 Wayward GI
62 Humor essayist David
63 Permeable
66 Truckloads
68 Basketballer Robinson
69 Displays of how well one can grumble?
75 Jack of early talk TV
76 Rearmost
77 Sweetheart
78 Downy fruit
82 Adoration
84 Withdraw
88 Mapping out atmospheric layers?
92 "No more seats" sign
93 Idle of film
94 Sporty Mazda
95 Made less messy
98 Dove calls
101 Tiny amount
103 Wearing a lily-white superhero accessory?
105 Jill's more mature hill-climbing partner?
110 Lotion additives
111 Texas city
112 Very bright
114 Lister's abbr.
115 Ring king Muhammad
118 Designer Oscar — Renta
119 Assets that have never been filmed?
124 "Put — my tab"
125 Nary a soul
126 Within: Prefix
127 President Martin Van —
128 Spanish "to be" verb
129 Hair lock
130 Shortly
131 Film critic Roger

DOWN
1 El —, Texas
2 "Star Wars" princess
3 "— Misbehavin'"
4 Yule quaff
5 Clown
6 Scale start
7 New stock listing, briefly
8 Ryder units
9 Hebrew letter
10 Greek fabulist
11 Lopped off
12 Ice-T's style
13 Suffix with Tokyo
14 Actress Sophia
15 Mole hole
16 Keyless, musically
17 Circus employees
18 Glass fragment
24 "— Loompa" ("Willy Wonka" song)
25 — Canals
31 Subsided
32 "Yummy!"
33 The "A" of A.D.
35 Tip politely, as a hat
36 Skips past
37 Jokesters
38 Novelist Wiesel
39 Melody
40 Cheney's gp.
45 PBS funder
46 Son of Queen Victoria
47 Novelist Virginia
49 "Steady as — goes!"
51 1982 Disney sci-fi film
52 Torrent
53 Armed cavalryman
54 "Dies —" (hymn)
55 Uses a bench
56 Part of Mao's name
58 Apparition
59 Fancy Dan
60 Jackie's "O"
64 "Yuck!"
65 Cry over — milk
67 Number after "due"
69 Rubberneck
70 — avis (unusual thing)
71 Vast, in verse
72 Helgenberger of "CSI"
73 Is plural?
74 — -picking
75 Canine foot
79 Bureaus
80 On top of, in poems
81 Cliched
83 Clean Air Act org.
85 Take — of (taste)
86 Algonquian tribe
87 Mary — Lincoln
89 Wound reminder
90 Part of TGIF
91 Mom's mom
95 "It takes — tango!"
96 Drink cooler
97 German article
98 Officers in training
99 Tiger cat
100 Skater Baiul
102 Long sofas
104 "Little House on the Prairie" character Nels
105 "Nell" star Foster
106 Bedevil
107 Conduits for steam
108 Eden figure
109 Cabs it, e.g.
113 Bond villain
115 Zoning unit
116 Ogling look
117 "Life — fair"
120 —'easter
121 Boot tip
122 Tokyo, once
123 Massage



answer on page D6

High fashion, homey feel

Text by Fran Katigbak
Photos by Romy Homillada

At Bonifacio High Street, shoppers can enjoy not only the greenery but also the diverse merchandise offered by chic and cozy shops

NO, that's not the work of vandals. Nike concept store at Bonifacio High Street

CITY DWELLERS HAVE long been accustomed to the sights and sounds of high-rise malls and shopping complexes of labyrinthine proportions.

While such structures obviously bear a distinct appeal, there are times when one seeks a more laid-back setting for retail therapy.

Perhaps it is a fashionista in a quest for unique finds, or a worn-out yuppie seeking gear and apparel for downtime at the beach or in the gym, or parents eager to indulge their kids but in less stressful surroundings.

At Bonifacio High Street, such individuals can enjoy not only the greenery that gives the place a more relaxing atmosphere, but also the diverse merchandise offered by chic and cozy shops.

Take, for example, wake, skate and surf shop Stoked that features local and foreign brands that would suit hobbyists on a budget and those who want to update regularly their gear.

Owner JV Borromeo says the store carries 100-percent technical products and sporty apparel such as those by popular brand Billabong.

Just next door is a surprise discovery—or rediscovery: Puma. The sports-lifestyle brand may not seem as splashy as its more popular counterparts, but the products look otherwise.

Shelves and racks feature trendy pieces of durable materials and in a variety of attractive colors. And the best part? Items are sold at reasonable prices.

Kids' fashion and accessories brand Big & Small Co. continues to offer locally made products at its High Street branch.

Owner Joanna Duarte has, in fact, come up with a line of top-selling "professional uniforms" that transforms kids into little doctors, rangers or policemen.

The boutique also carries assorted girls' dresses, from formal to casual wear, in materials such as cotton, soft denim, chiffon, lace, cheesecloth.

Royal treatment

Kids may want to tag along with mom and dad on a visit to High Street and make sure Club Princess, owned by Mye Cruz, Angelette Calero and Elly Dee, is on the itinerary.

Charming, glittery and whimsical, the store's display window and interiors, done in yummy pastel shades associated with royalty, draw the attention not only of kids but adults as well.

Club Princess offers numerous accessories, miniature beauty products, even makeover, nail-care and glitter-tattoo services. A party package that combines these treats is available to parents who want a day of royal treatment for their little princesses.

Malaysian menswear brand Philosophy has built another elegant boutique at High Street.

The theme for this year's collection is Incredible India, which explains the riot of Indian prints, colors and designs on shirts, shorts, even underwear.

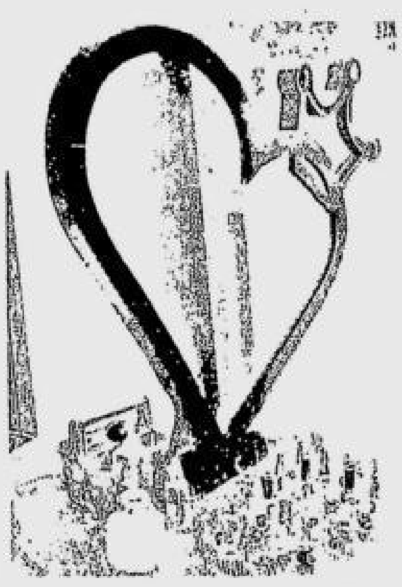
Philosophy also has unique accessories made of metals and semi-precious stones, with prices at P800-P6,000.

US fashion label Von Dutch, on the other hand, has a rock- and biker-inspired home for its equally edgy merchandise.

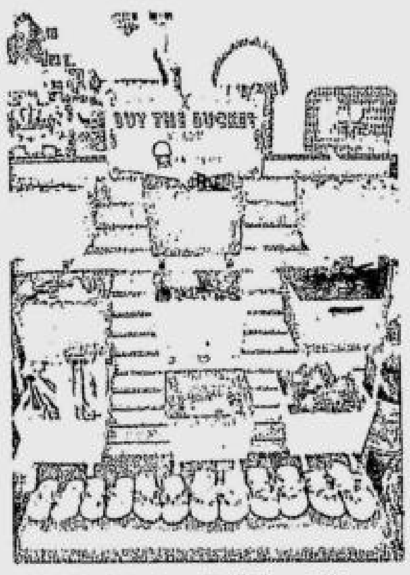
The array of denimwear, jackets, tops, and accessories for him and her are complemented by marble-like columns, a crystal chandelier, a vintage motorbike, and furniture and wallpaper in black, gold and earthy tones.

Von Dutch is the place to go for graphic art-inspired fashion with a twist.

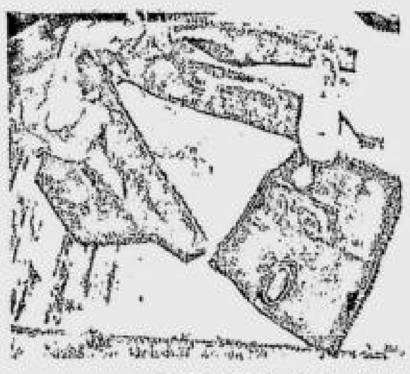
For more styles and accessories, visit Benetton, Calvin Klein, G Force Oakley, Kenneth Cole, Nike, Rudy Project, Nine West, Charles & Keith outlets at Bonifacio High Street.



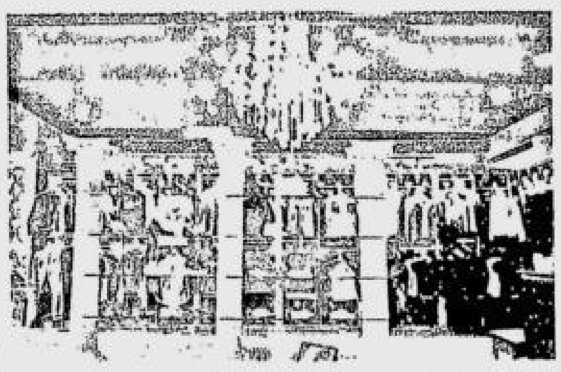
CLUB Princess does nail art, glitter tattoo and makeovers.



BUY the Bucket (P498) at Club Princess



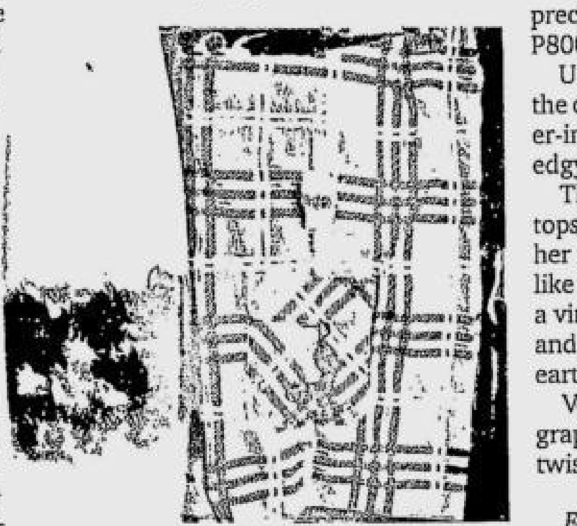
SUBDUED pink with jacket and denim skirt by Von Dutch



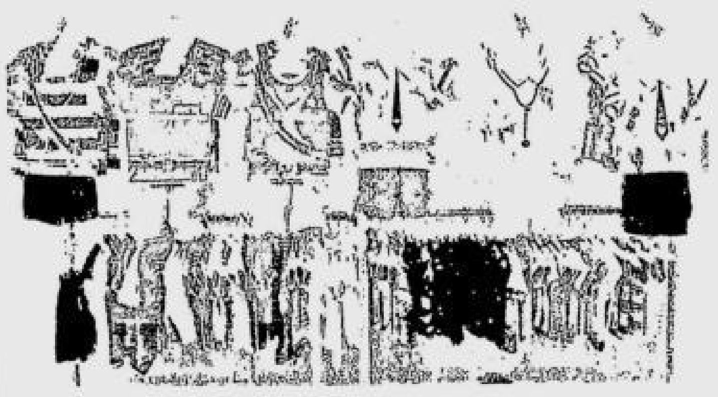
STYLE and drama at Von Dutch

TRENDY but reasonably-priced Puma zip-up jackets

BEST-SELLING Puma footwear



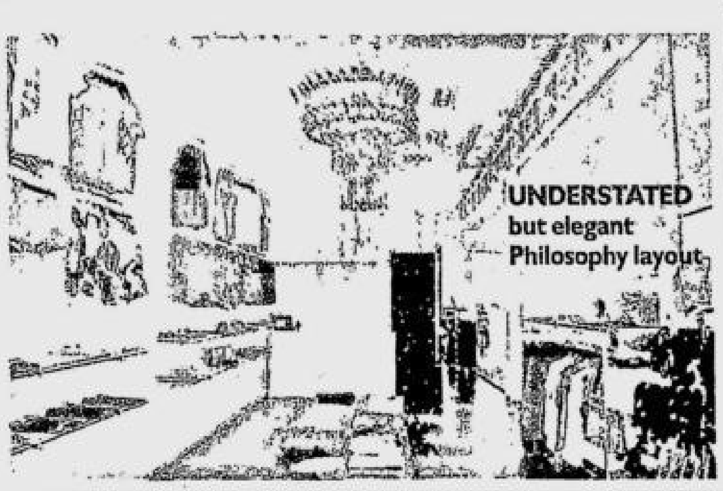
DETAILS count such as wax and key string in the pocket of quick-dry boardshorts; (left) surf board mania at Stoked



KIDS dream big with these profession outfits by Big & Small Co.

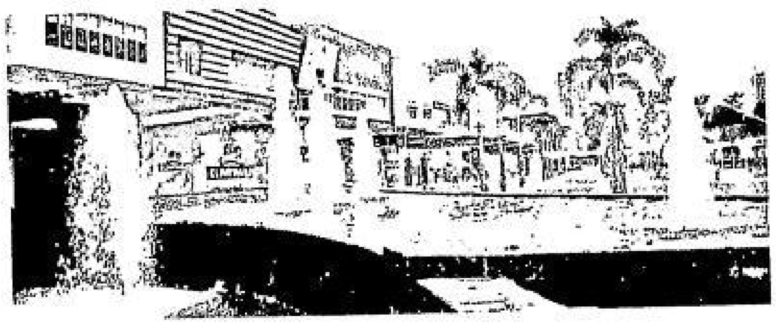
FOR THE little fashionista, at Big & Small Co.

MAKE a statement with Philosophy's Gandhi.



UNDERSTATED but elegant Philosophy layout

AYALA'S Ayin Fabian, Myrna Fernandez, Charmaine Bauzon, Lou Reyes and Mina Domingo



AYALA has turned the park of High Street into an open-air gallery where people can see, touch, even listen to works of art.

KIDS treat "Hearsay," a pun on Filipinos' love for tsismis, like a seesaw or swing.

Alfresco art appreciation

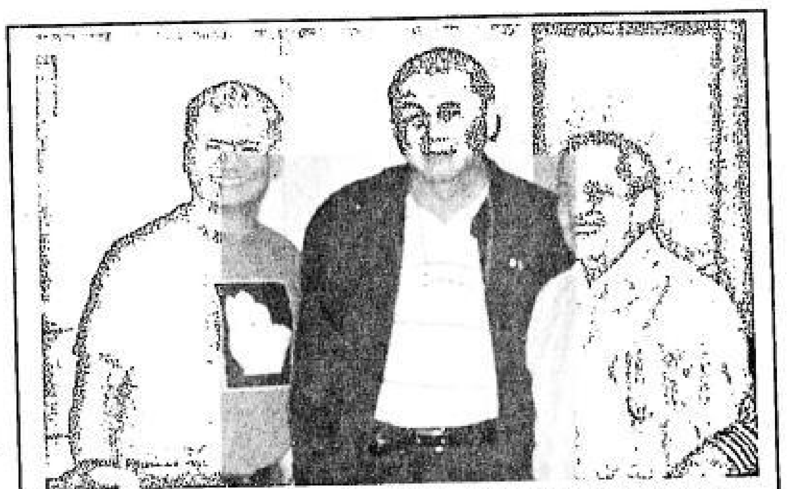
From page D1

kids—installation of twisted pipes is designed as a pun on Filipinos' love for *tsismis*, hence the title "Hearsay." For "Unbearable Lightness," Yuson collaborates with painter Ronald Achacoso. The cantilevered structure in green, yellow and blue looks like a ramp for skateboarding. It is again another nod to gravity, as well as the ideas of weightlessness, surface and depth.

Conrado Velasco has put up what looks like the silhouette of a bear. Nicknamed "wee-beastie" by the artist himself, it is No. 85 in Velasco's "TINSTAEJ" (short for there is no such thing as eternal joy) series. The light-blue color is meant to remind viewers of how a smog-free, clear sky looks.

"Concerto," another Yuson installation, is a group of 20 freestanding ground chimes. Nudging any of the red pieces produces sounds that are meant to fill the High Street park with good vibe.

Bafi is supported by Global City lot owners as part of their goal to make the premier business district a place where passions, particularly the arts, can be pursued freely.



HOTEL SOGO SoRop donates .5M to flood victims

HOTEL SOGO's Sogo Relief Operation (SoRop) recently paid a visit to the office of Pampanga Governor Ed Panlilio to hand over Hotel Sogo's donation amounting to P500,000.00 for the families of the flood victims of Typhoons "Dodong" and "Chedeng" in Candava, Pampanga.

Photo shows from left, Mr. Gus Corpus COO of Hotel Sogo, Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and Mr. Ed Las CEO of Hotel Sogo.

azul
Enjoy Filipino-Spanish Cuisine with a spectacular view of Manila Bay!
We do catering for all occasions. Private function room available!
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Today Grandparents' Day!

Make your lolo & lola happy with these delicious and beautiful cake offerings from Red Ribbon Bakeshop.

Express your warm greetings with **Mano Po Artwork Photocake**. This creatively-designed cake will truly put a smile on your grandparents' faces no matter how old or young they are.

Get your grandparents a classic cake that they will surely love. **Timeless Cake** brings together classic look and modern elegance-a cake that every grandparent would want to receive this Grandparents' Day.

Mano Po

Timeless

These Red Ribbon Grandparents' Day cakes come in two flavors: Mocha Chiffon or Chocolate Pound. You also have an option to add a yummy caramel nut filling for a sweeter surprise!

Visit any of the Red Ribbon Bakeshop branches nationwide and order your beautiful Grandparents' Day cakes from Red Ribbon Cakes By Design now!

[illegible]

Red Ribbon

Lisa Macuja doing a graceful ballet dance during the event.

Karl Go demonstrates some Taichi moves.

C2 Life!
Life!
Life!

(From left) C2 Brand Assistant Anna Tiongson, Mico Palanca and C2 Consumer Marketing Associate Jovee See

Members of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines in their striking form

The cool and clean pursuits of C2 Life

The heightened awareness in living a good life was further enhanced by the influx of healthy and energy drinks. Lest people forget, one of the pioneering companies that promote healthy lifestyle is Universal Robina Corp. with C2 Cool and Clean Green Tea.

Awesome event hosts Drew Arellano and Sam Oh.

And because C2 has become a way of life for many Filipinos, URC recently launched C2 Life and C2 Life Card, a fresh and fun way to start living a cool and clean, as well as healthy, life.

The C2 Life Festival held on Aug. 18 and was hosted by TV personalities Drew Arellano and Sam Oh, demonstrated how to lead a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

Several activities demonstrating how to deal with a fast-paced lifestyle and stress-free busters were showcased with experts and known personalities.

The increasing number of vegetarians feasted on the cooking demonstrations by Nona Lema while the figure conscious learned a thing or two from Florable Co when she gave South Beach Diet recipes.

Eating and drinking healthy may not be enough so Slimmers World International, Jill Ngo of Peak Performance, Taichi instructor Karl Go, Capoeira expert Cookie Pido and Tristan Choa of Bikram Yoga Manila demonstrated the latest moves in fitness.

Participants Sundari Shop, Blue Water Spa, JB Sports Accessories and Cebu Pacific were also sample on hand to demonstrate how their products and services helped rejuvenate participants' bodies.

C2 Life Festival was packed with exciting activities that whatever your interest is, there was something for you. Even renowned potter John Pettyjohn held a workshop on the art of pottery-making. And since scented candles proved to be a hit, people from Bright Ideas Candles shared some tips on how to make candles that last.

Having something to do or a hobby that is completely not related to what you do is an effective stress-buster. One of the emerging hobbies among the busy and artistic people is lomography. LomoManila an organization of lomography enthusiasts, while experts from the Federation of Professional Photographers Foundation, Inc. taught basic photography and imaging. Culture vultures raved about the latest offerings from Liza Macuja-Elizalde's Ballet Manila, the Metropolitan Museum, and the Ayala Museum. New age and world music and books were featured in the C2 Life Festival courtesy of Music One and Power Books, respectively. Packing the crowds in were tarot card and Feng Shui experts who gave guests a sneak peek into their futures.

To experience all things good by C2 Life, one has to be a C2 Life Cardholder. Just watch out for the C2 Life Festival to be held nearest you and secure a C2 Life Card by purchasing any C2 product during the event.

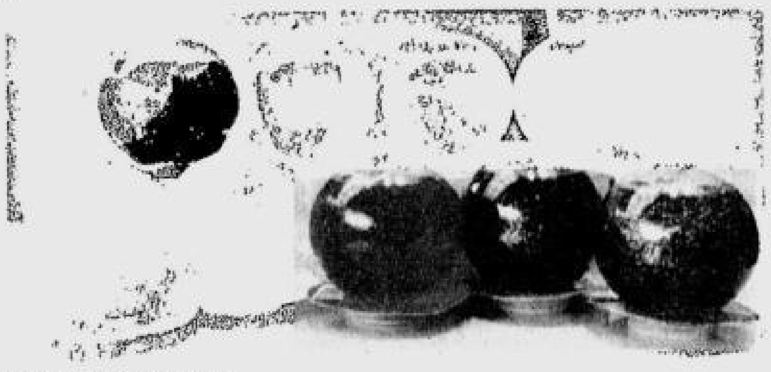
Participation in each activity earns the bearer a sticker, and specific numbers of stickers collected have corresponding rewards. Cardholders will likewise be entitled to join the raffle draw for a chance to win a trip for two to Thailand, Singapore and Bohol via Cebu Pacific.

Experience the cool and clean taste of the C2 Life. For more information on the C2 Life campaign and upcoming events, log on to www.thec2life.com.

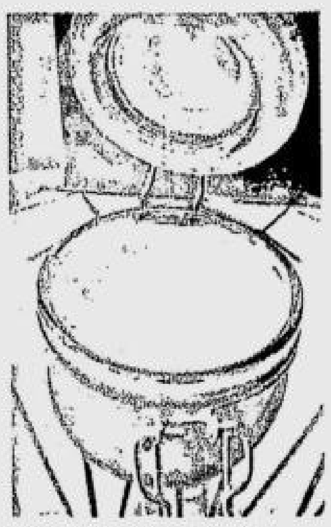
Tea for better Life

the natural source
australian naturopathic beauty

THE NATURAL Source in Bonifacio High Street houses beauty finds that are gentle on your skin and the environment.



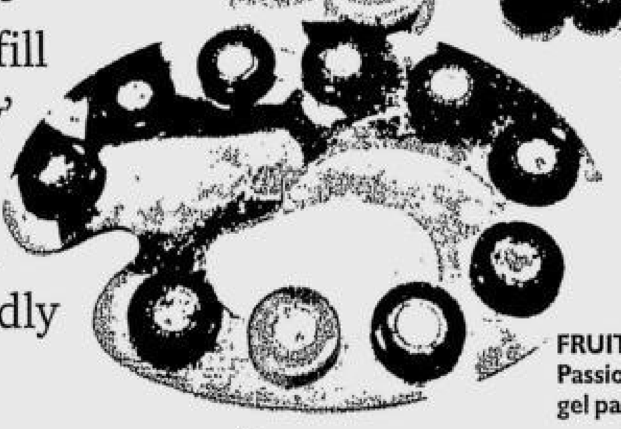
TNS SHOWER gels in bubble packs



BESTSELLER. Daintree A Touch of Diamonds

Get a natural high from Bonifacio High Street shops and fill your 'kikay' kits with earth- and body-friendly goodies

DIG into these nature-inspired fruity treats.



FRUITS & Passion shower gel palette

Beauty essentials for nature lovers

Text by Irene C. Perez
Photos by Ryan Lim

WITH THE GROWING DEMAND for organic everything that has made eco-friendly the new cool, beauty junkies can jump into the bandwagon by ditching chemical-laden stuff for nature-based products.

And the lush Bonifacio High Street is the place to go searching for products that even Mother Nature may want to use herself.

Take The Natural Source (TNS), for instance. It boasts of "naturopathic" products, plant-derived active ingredients that adjust to the skin and hair's natural condition. It lets the body gently absorb only as much or as little as it needs, minimizing adverse reactions.

The Mayaltha ("the season of the flowering water lily") Treatments that promote renewal go by catchy names like Better Body, Better Breasts, Better Bottom, Better Legs, Better Skin Tone.

Better Cycles, which supports a woman's biological rhythm during menstruation by easing cramps, reducing bloating, and helping overcome depression, just might be the cure for PMS (premenstrual syndrome). Maybe it should be called Better Girlfriend, instead.

The store has a blockbuster wall where you can find the recent Top 10 products to guide you and, hopefully, keep you within budget. Here are the hottest TNS picks:

1. **Daintree A Touch of Diamonds**—A luxurious body whip with the best natural ingredients and real Australian diamonds.

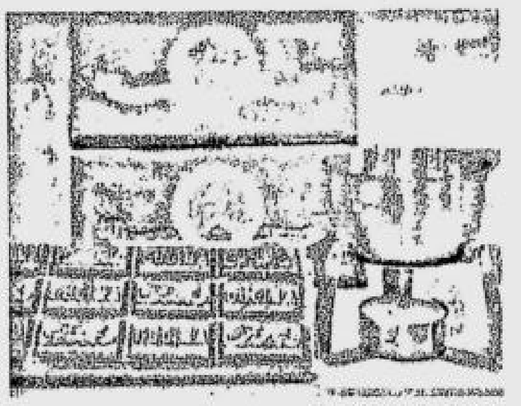
2. **Hi Shine Manager**—A light mist that tames frizz and fly-aways, smoothes and softens, and protects colored hair, too.

3. **Daintree Eau de Toilette**—Unisex relaxing scent with Native Australian Gum base notes, Daintree Water Lily and Damiana middle notes, and fresh Native Grass finishing notes.

4. **Mayaltha Better Stretch-Mark Defense**—Said to be a stretch-mark buster, it also prevents scarring and calms inflamed skin.

Fruits & Passion
body ritual
home
New
kitchen lifestyle

NOT just for the body. Fruits & Passion also has stuff for the home and kitchen to match your beauty faves.



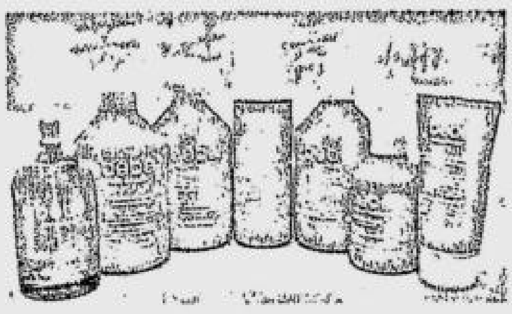
GOOD enough to eat. This chocolate slab is actually scented wax for your room.

5. **Hi Shine Straightening Balm**—Lightweight, this straightening and softening styling balm promises to tame the most stubborn waves.

6. **Terra Firma Honeysuckle Pure Vegetable Soap**—It has palm and olive oil, glycerin and honeysuckle, gentle enough for the face and body.

7. **Hi Shine Extra-Care Conditioner**—Hydrates, nourishes, moisturizes and restores chemically abused hair, leaving it brilliantly shiny.

F&S glycerin soap in Green Apple, Georgian Peach, Orange-Cantaloupe, Lemon-Vanilla and Pear-Linden scents



F&S Bebé line

8. **Better Fuller Lips**—It firms and plumps lips by stimulating natural collagen production. Vitamin E and pure Australian botanical extracts make for extra-smooth kissers.

9. **Soothing Honeysuckle & Vitamin E Body Butter Category**—Heavy but non-greasy moisturizer with essential oil and extract-based formula with added vitamin E for replenished skin.

10. **Aventurine Crystal Therapy Pure Fragrance**—Crushed semiprecious Aventurine crystals are incorporated in each bottle to promote healthy energy flow and counter imbalances.

In the Camouflage Colors makeup range, the Nail Lacquer, Skin Crayon (three-in-one color for eyes, lips and cheeks) and Pure Mineral Powder are the bestsellers.

TNS also has gift sets in dainty packaging, though you can ask them to personalize your gift sets and they will wrap it free of charge.

Fruity goodies

Another High Street find is Fruits & Passion, a Canadian brand that offers face- and body-care staples inspired by nature. Everything smells yummy and delicate.

Choose what is best for your skintone from Face Care collection. Radiance with pomegranate, cranberry, papaya and pineapple stimulates skin cell regeneration and restores glow and luster to dull skin. Défense with antioxidants grape-seed extract, proteins from moringa, centella asiatica extracts, and pea extracts protects the skin against pollution.

Anti-Âge, meanwhile, has acerola cherry, tomato, and kiwi extract blue-green algae and soy protein to regenerate and tone aging skin.

Fruits & Passion Hair Care range is made of natural mixes of pure essential oils, and are free of sulfate, paraben, dye or silicones.

It has five variants: Nutrition-Régénération for very dry and damaged hair; Couleur-Vitalité for colored and treated hair; Protection-Brillance for sensitive hair; Équilibre-Volume for oily hair; and Tonique-Normal for daily use.

Pick up the Fruity Glycerin Soap, too, a translucent handmade soap of pure vegetable glycerin and natural lipids that leaves skin soft; the Fruity Body Milk Lotion with avocado oil, vitamins, amino acids and cucumber extract; and the Body Butters. They come in Green Apple, Georgian Peach, Orange-Cantaloupe, Fruits of the Islands, Lemon-Vanilla and Pear-Linden scents.

The Bebé line for little ones is guaranteed to have no paraffin, sulfate or alcohol that may cause allergies. They have vegetal bases and are enriched with ingredients from organic plants. Baby will have a blast with the Body and Hair Wash, Delicate Baby Bouquet, Massage Oil, Oatmeal Bath Milk and Ultra Gentle Cleansing Foam.

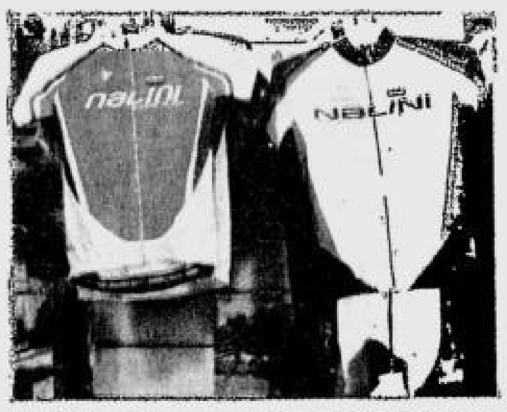
Mommies may want to try the Pineapple Slimming Serum and Slimming Exfoliating Cream with bromelain, papain from papaya, and CoAxel that improve skin elasticity and tighten skin.

The chocoholic might want this chocolate that will not give you a single calorie. Cucina Dolce Wax Slabs (looks like a real choco bar!) perfumes your home with yummy sinful chocolate smell. One wax square lasts for two hours. Choose from Chocolate Orange, Chocolate Mint and Chocolate Hazelnut scents.

All Cucina hand-care products draw from goodies found in the kitchen. They contain olive tree extract, sage and rosemary essential oils and are available in Bamboo-Hibiscus, Lotus-Nenuphar, and Green Tea-Orchid variants.

Toys for all ages

From page D2



NALINI cycling apparel from Italy, exclusive to Bike King

INNOVATIVE stroller bike allows mom to jog without shaking the baby.

get its "heart," a Wishing Star. The buyer can make a wish before the star is put in.

Sound chips and fragrant pellets are optional.

The toy's name is entered in a computer and a birth certificate can be issued. The "newborn" is then put in a condo box or cradle.

A makeover for a stuffed toy is available at the Salon. Wigs can turn it into a blonde, a brunette, redhead, or even a pink babe. Clothes include coats, swimsuit, gowns and accessories are boots, bags, radio, guitar.

A "sick" (damaged) toy can get proper care in the Hospital from Animaland "doctors." Mini wheelchairs and crutches are at the patient's disposal.

Animaland toys are a big hit even among teenagers and grandparents who give them as gifts.

The Picture Company

The Picture Company turns ordinary photographs into fun and creative items.

With colorful chairs, shelves and costumes strewn around, the place looks more like a daycare than a studio.

That's because they want kids to be very comfortable when photographed. But the studio also photographs newborns, teens, family, groups, pets, even pregnant women.

The Picture Company tries to make every shoot fun and play for the subject, especially kids. Wacky props are available like all sorts of hats, fruits and flower headdresses, lady bug and bumble bee overalls, feather boas.

From personalized stuffed toys to bikes suited to your lifestyle, High Street has them all

It also has a tie-up with Disney so the subject can make believe he is part of the "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Cars" "High School Musical" or "Ratatouille."

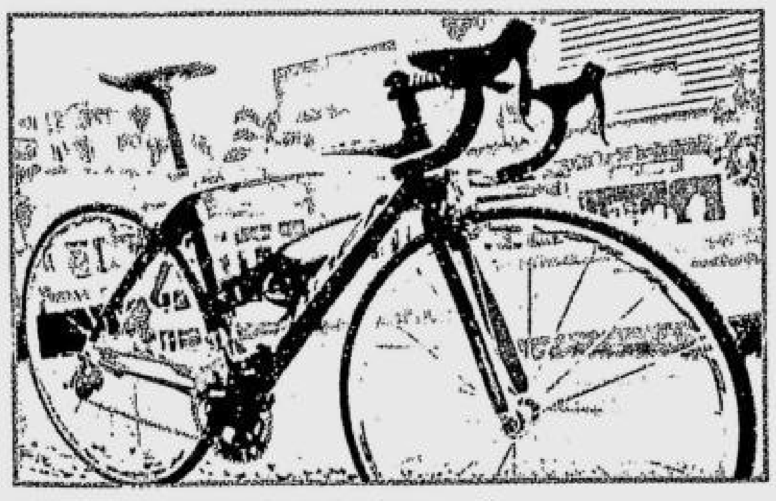
Staff and photographers are trained to handle pets and kids.

All shoots take an hour and are by appointment. Membership and framing options are also offered.

Bike King

Bike King offers high-quality bicycles for enthusiasts aged three and above, from beginners to advance bikers.

It has kid's bike designed for function and safety; leisure bikes for recreation, riding around the village, low-intensity exercise; and specialty items like women's specific. mountain bike, road and triathlon bikes.



ORBEA carbon-fiber bike for hard-core cyclists

SLEEPING bag to keep your favorite bear warm

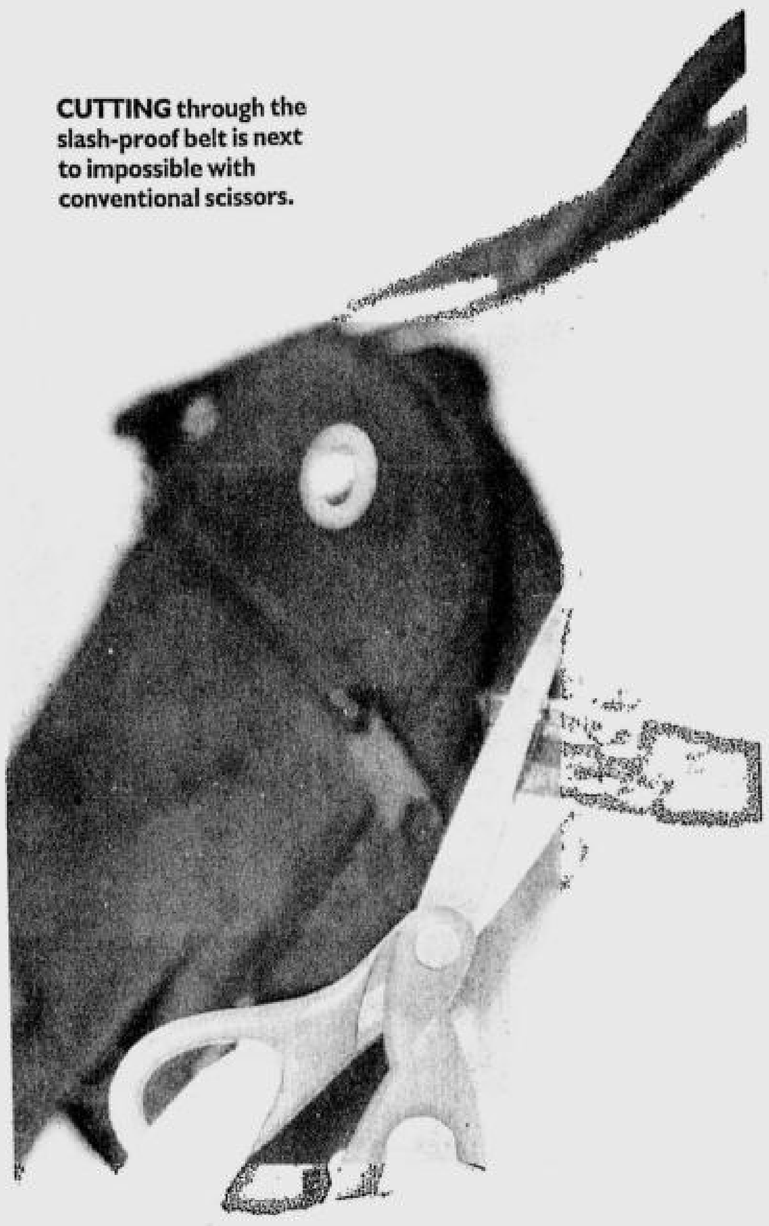
Buyers love the space-saving folding bikes and innovative stroller bikes (mom can jog while holding the shock-proof stroller without shaking the baby).

Exclusive to Bike King are top-of-the-line brands like Trek, Giant and Orbea. Serious cyclists prefer Orbea from Spain and high-performance Carbon Corima wheels from France for their performance.

Owner Raul Cuvas said Giant was the world's biggest bicycle manufacturer while Trek was the No. 1 brand in the United States. Bike King is also the exclusive distributor of Nalini cycling apparel from Italy.

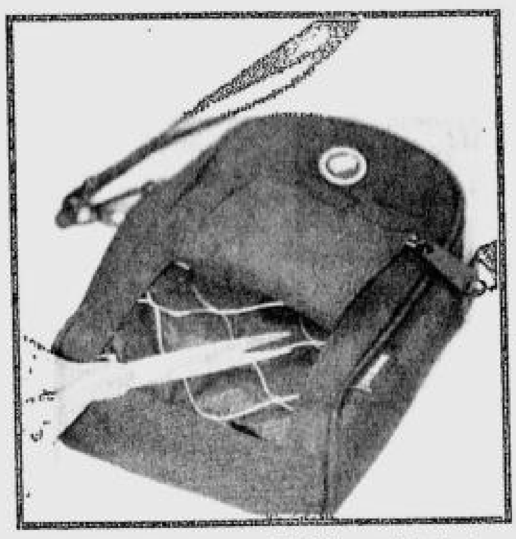
"Our customers are always looking for three things: quality, good service and convenience," he said. "Bike King staff members are trained to assist and give professional advice to help our customers choose the best bicycle to suit their lifestyle and needs." They let clients road-test bikes to ensure satisfaction.

The shop also offers registration and information on events like triathlon, running and cycling races.



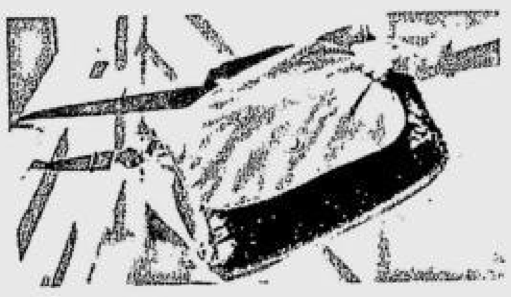
CUTTING through the slash-proof belt is next to impossible with conventional scissors.

THE WIRE mesh between layers of ballistic nylon will prevent the blade from tearing through the bag.



THE WOVEN wire mesh is lightweight but made of high-tensile stainless steel cables and crimps.

With products designed to deter thieves, Pacsafe helps make traveling less stressful



DURABLE straps are a deterrent to thievery.

Security for people on the go

DUSTIN Go Lim

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

LEAVE YOUR BAG UNATTENDED IN the airport departure lounge, freshen up in the powder room and return to find everything exactly where and how you left them.

In an ideal world maybe, and in countries where theft means the loss of one or more fingers.

But for those of us who live in less than ideal circumstances, the global brand Pacsafe (www.pacsafe.com) may be the next best thing.

The company is recognized by seasoned adventure travelers as the makers of "security-on-the-go" products, creating a more secure environment for their belongings where ever they may be.

Peace of mind

"The last thing you need to worry about when you travel is security of your possessions, whether you are at the airport, in a hotel, train or restaurant. What we offer is peace of mind so you can relax and enjoy your vacation, or relax and get down to business," said Dustin Go Lim, general manager of the United Limsun International Trading Corp., local distributor of Pacsafe.

The concept of security-on-the-go was started in 1998 by Australians who loved to travel. From a wire mesh device for locking and securing backpacks, Pacsafe today has a product lineup that includes shoulder and messenger bags, backpacks and laptop bags as well as security devices like TSA-ready (Transportation Security Administration) padlocks, metal cables, wallets and more.

Since security is what the company is all about, Pacsafe anti-theft products feature patented security systems like the eXomesh. They are slash-proof, snatch-proof and tamperproof.

The technologically advanced version of the original wire mesh, eXomesh is a flexible, high-tensile stainless-steel mesh, cable and crimps woven together to create a slash-proof core.

Although the mesh is lightweight, it has a mean cable strength of about 198 kg, enough to thwart the most experienced snatcher. All securing cables are made of heavy-duty steel wire.

"A very determined thief will ultimately get what they want—in due time. What the security features of Pacsafe do is to stall the pickpockets. No mugger in his/her right mind would waste several minutes figuring out how to break open or slash your bag," said sales manager Irish H. Sun.

Felons take advantage of that split-second of distraction, like when you glance at your watch or are looking in the opposite direction. Snatchers, after all, are opportunists, constantly on the lookout for a moment of weakness.

Steel cage

The eXomesh acts as slash guards. Discreetly placed between two layers of ballistic nylon fabrics on belts, straps and vulnerable sections of the bag such as the lower section (contents can drop out without the victim knowing), it protects the bag from knives and blades.

EXomesh can also act as a steel cage when wrapped over your things.

But you do not need to travel long distances to find use for Pacsafe products. You may find it handy as you doze off during commute after a busy day at work or as you eat alone in a restaurant.

Pacsafe's snatch-proof anchor clips and locks make life a little easier for you. Metal clips on slash-proof belts and straps can be unfastened at one end to loop and anchor bags to a secure fixture, like the arm of your chair.

Additional features on some products, such as the snatch-proof locking system, allow you to loop, anchor and lock your bag safely in place—the ultimate lock-and-leave system.

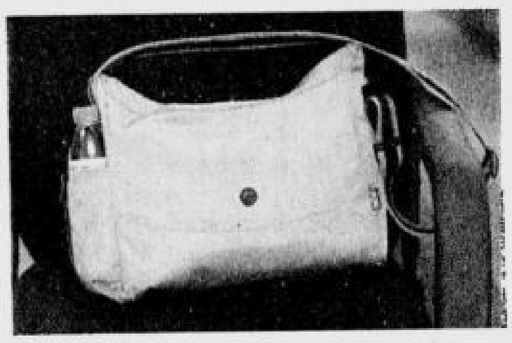
For instance, when on the beach and everybody decides to go for a swim, you can safely leave your things behind. Just gather all personal effects in Pacsafe's TravelSafe 100, looping the retractable steel cable around a tree trunk or branch, then locking it.

The eXomesh locking system features a steel reinforced bullet-proof polycarbonate lock links, high-tensile stainless-steel draw wire, lockable belts and zippers. Though snatchers might not actually fire at your bags, Pacsafe is consistently looking for newer, durable and high-technology innovations, Lim said.

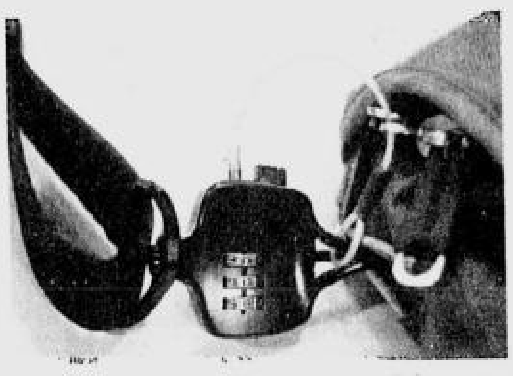
Tamperproof zippers that lock closed or latch to metal clips are ideal for prime pickpocket locations like overcrowded malls. The flap-covered tamperproof compartments have hidden safety hooks.

Pacsafe is available at Rustan's, Power-Mac, Bratpack and Travel Club branches.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

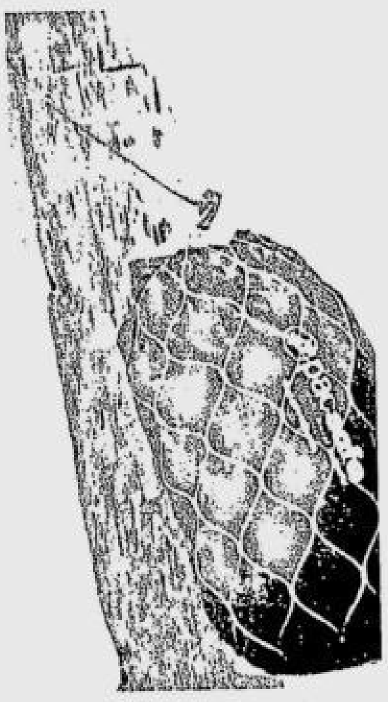


BE sure to anchor the bag to a secure fixture.



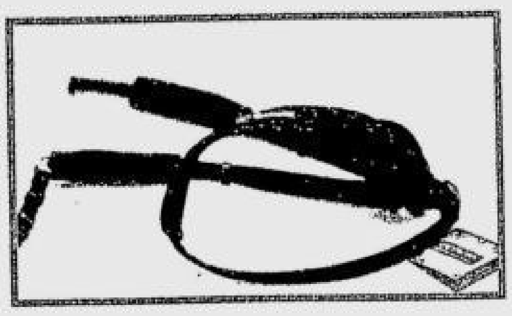
LOOP and lock uses heavy-duty stainless-steel wire to secure the zipper in place.

TRAVELSAFE 100, a lightweight, nifty pouch that has a complete lock-and-leave sytem



THE EXTERNAL eXomesh can be bought separately and comes in different sizes.

SEVERAL strap options make carrying the DuffelSafe 100 convenient and comfortable.



TRAVEL BRIEFS

Luxury resort in Poro Point

A 65-HECTARE MEDITERRANEAN-inspired resort is being developed in Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union. This will be the second integrated luxury hotel project in the Philippines of Thunderbird Resorts, Inc. The flagship Thunderbird Resorts-Rizal opened two years ago in Binangonan. The new resort features a scenic lake view, 43 luxury suites, fine-dining establishments. The company is projected to invest US$16 million in 2006-2007, and has committed a total investment of up to US$100 million for the first decade of operations in Poro Point. President Macapagal-Arroyo, who led Thunderbird Resorts' groundbreaking rites, drew attention to the substantial economic impact of the project.

Ultimate spa

Discovery Shores Boracay and Mandala Spa have created the ultimate spa escape: Discovery Mandala Spa. Guests can choose from specially designed programs to stimulate the five senses. Discovery Mandala Spa's complete menu of spa services include Mandala Signature Massage, Mandala Deep-Tissue Massage, Lymph Drainage Massage, Pre-Natal Massage and the popular Hilot Trilogy. Discovery Mandala Spa is also launching two exclusive services: two Pre-Sun Treatments and two After-Sun Treatments, developed specially for Discovery Shores Boracay. Call 6838222 loc. 3929/3438 or visit www.discoveryshoresboracay.com.

For adventure seekers

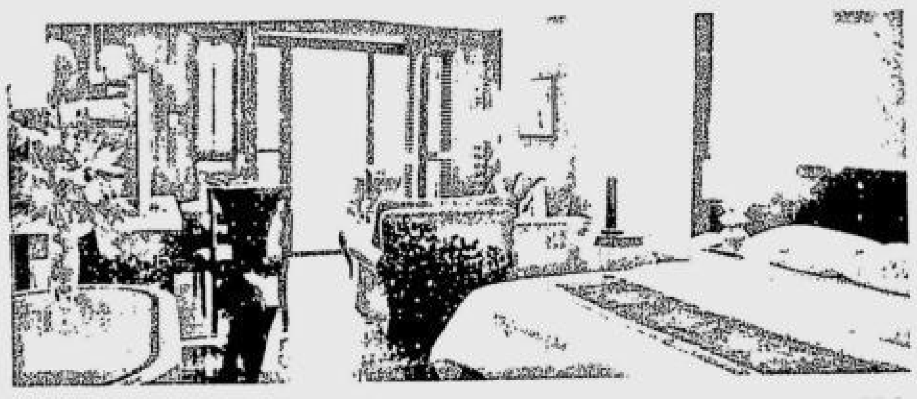
Palawan is now among the destinations offered by Mountain Travel Sobek and Wilderness Travel, two leading international tour operators catering to adventure seekers. Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said Palawan had always been a favorite among diving enthusiasts and those looking for the perfect island getaway. Being included on the lists of the two tour operators meant it could meet the expectations of more discerning travelers. Mountain Travel Sobek and Wilderness Travel are considered pioneers in offering adventure travel packages. Both are in the top five of Travel & Leisure Magazine's best adventure tour companies of 2007.

Disney Halloween

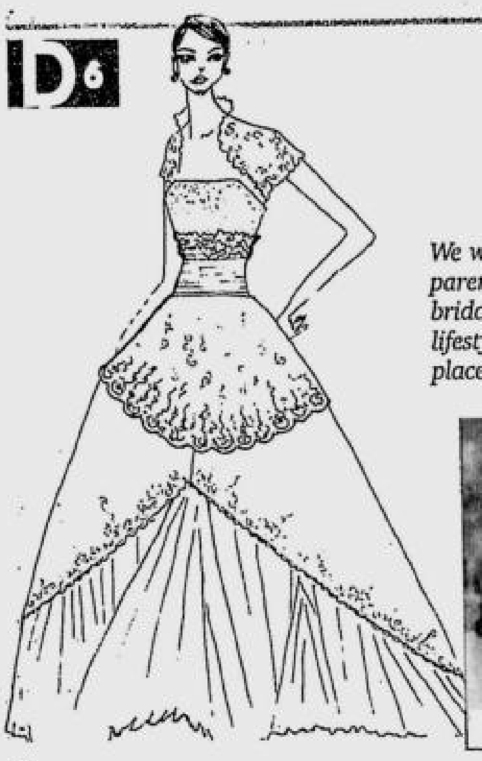
Hong Kong Disneyland promises an all-new and different Halloween season this year. Haunted Halloween promises to be edgier, eerier and more exciting. From Sept. 25 until the end of October, over 10 mysterious attractions and entertainment offerings will be featured. The Park will extend its hours of operation on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as on Oct. 31, to 11 p.m. A special evening ticket for weekend visitors will be launched at HK$198 (about P1,184. Visit www.hongkongdisneyland.com.

IT package

Cathay Pacific Airways and its subsidiary, Dragonair, will adopt the complete Altéa Customer Management Solution (CMS) of Amadeus, a company providing technology and distribution solutions for the travel and tourism industry. Under the 10-year contract, Altea CMS will be used to manage the airline's passenger service chain. Edward Nicol, director, information management at Cathay, said Altéa CMS was "the best fit with the airline's business requirement." At present, 42 airlines across the globe use Altéa CMS.



SOUTHEAST Asian Airlines offers the best deals to domestic travelers at the 18th Philippine Travel Mart to be held at the SM Megatrade Hall from Sept. 7-9. Purchase round-trip tickets to Boracay (Caticlan) for only P8,618.40 and get 10 free gift certificates valid for the same destination on selected flights from Sept. 11-Oct. 15. It just keeps getting better. The airline also offers its irresistible round-trip airfare to Boracay on selected flights for as low as P500+ and special one-way rates to El Nido (P3,557+), Busuanga (P1,390+) and Siargao (P1,318+). Visit the Seair booth.



Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER*, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

HERNANDEZ-CATINDIG

Ricky Hernandez, son of **Rogelio** and **Teresita Hernandez**, will wed **Michelle Catindig**, daughter of **Lorna Isip-Catindig**, on Sept. 29, at San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa, Batangas. Reception will be held at Jose P. Laurel Hall, Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Lipa City. The bride designed her gown of hand-embroidered, callado piña fabric.

CARIÑO-GABO

Jojel Cariño, son of **Liberato** (deceased) and **Dolores Cariño**, recently wed **Lorlene Gabo**, daughter of **Pablo** (deceased) and **Thelma Gabo**, at Parish of St. Joseph The Worker Church, Jaro, Iloilo City. Officiating priest was Rev. Fr. **Raymond Acebuque**. Reception was held at the Boracay Ballroom of Sarabia Manor Hotel.

MARUCUT-UVAS

Jose "Dong" Marucut and **Clarice Uvas** recently exchanged vows at Our Lady of Remedies Church, Malate, Manila. Reception was held at Villa Inmaculada, Intramuros.

FAUSTINO-CANDELARIA

Jeffrey Faustino, son of **Romeo** and **Janelyn Faustino**, will wed **Rhea Candelaria**, daughter of **Ramon** and **Victoria Candelaria**, on Sept. 22, at St. Francis Assisi Chapel, Fernwood Garden, QC. Reception will be held at Cycad Garden, Fernwood.

MANANZAN-CASTILLO

Andre Mananzan, son of Dr. and Ms **Jose Mananzan**, and **Eliza Marie Castillo**, daughter of lawyer and Ms **Recto S. Castillo Sr.**, tied the knot on Aug. 18, at Manila Cathedral.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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The grand times of grandparents

Almost all of us have stories of grand times with our grandparents. They spoil us with treats, fascinating stories, and trips to playgrounds, parks or malls. Grandparents make excellent playmates! But in some cases, there are conditions that may rob them of the joys of being a grandparent. One of those conditions is incontinence or the inability to control urinary or bowel functions. Grandparents suffering from incontinence would rather stay at home than go out and enjoy play time with their grandchildren.

But the good thing is, incontinence is not the end of grand times as we know it. Happiness is just around the corner with Dr. P Adult Diapers, the number 1 adult diaper in the country. Dr. P is a high-quality, easy-to-use and affordable brand of adult diapers from JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, makers of other high quality products such as EQ baby diapers and Charmee Feminine Napkins.

Dr. P is designed for maximum comfort and convenience. It has adjustable tapes for a better fit, wetness indicators and leak guards to prevent side leakage. The materials are soft, yet offers maximum absorbency and protection. It has anti-bacterial properties that neutralizes unpleasant odors; and it comes in a range of variants such as, Dr. P basic, for light to moderate incontinence, Dr. P Day Use and Standard for heavy incontinence and Dr. P Maxi Overnight, offering a greater degree of protection with its soft waist band that prevents back leaks, providing all-around, all-night protection.

Come Grandparent's Day, don't let incontinence stop you from treating them to a grand time. Happiness for them is enjoying the company of their children and grandchildren. And that's what they will get from Dr. P Adult diapers.

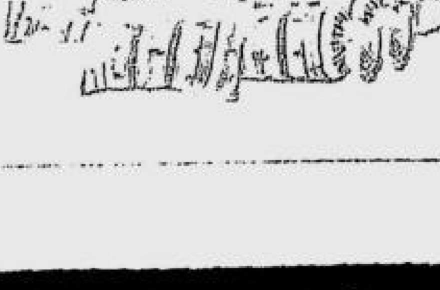
EQ Diaper brings back 'Bonggang Binyagan'

EQ Diaper touches the lives of hundreds of Filipino families with its EQ Bonggang Binyagan. Now on its second year, a total of 700 babies were given free baptism in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Cavite, Dagupan and Metro Manila. In Metro Manila, hundreds of babies were baptized in Mount Carmel church with Pinky Webb, host of Umagang Kay Ganda, and Eugene Go, VP for marketing of JS Unitrade (exclusive distributor of EQ Diaper), standing as symbolic godparents. Reception followed in Fernwood Gardens for the grand celebration. Quezon City Councilor Vincent Belmonte, also one of the symbolic godparents, shared words of inspiration to all parents as the program started.

Councilor Vincent Belmonte giving his speech in to EQ winners in Ferwood Gardens.

Bedtime collection by Prokids

Prokids Premium Baby Diapers ensures a relaxing and comfortable atmosphere for baby to sleep with its Bedtime Collection Promo. To join the promo, simply collect the required Prokids wrappers and exchange with the Bedtime Collection item. Wrappers should be submitted together with the sender's complete information and the desired premium item. Entries may be mailed or hand carried to "Prokids Bedtime Collection", JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, 31st Floor, Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The chosen premium item will be delivered to the sender's address for free! Promo will run from Aug. 15 to Nov. 30. See posters and flyers for more details, or you may visit www.jsunitrade.com for more information.



Drawing Conclusions
Drawing Conclusions

GIVE YOUR CHILD A COMPETITIVE EDGE THIS YEAR!

"I see that she's more confident in her math abilities. She enjoys going to Tutoring Club because it's fun and not boring!"

- Nicole, Mother of Noelle, 9

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EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Brokenhearted daughter wants to give up dream

DEAR EMILY,

My daughter is now in deep misery after her breakup with this guy, ending 2½ years of being together.

They were a sweetheart couple on campus because of how good they looked together. She got really attached to him as she lived by herself in the school dormitory and this guy was always there for her every time she needed him.

Maybe this is one of the reasons my daughter found it really hard to accept the end of what seemed to be a blissful existence for her.

To my dismay, she called to tell me that she wanted to quit school and come back to the Philippines now. It just crushed my heart because that school was a dream come true for her.

She has only two semesters left before graduation. My daughter said there was no third party involved. The guy just woke up one morning realizing that their relationship had no future—he being Turkish and she a Filipino.

He told her it would be for their best welfare to end their relationship immediately. She thinks it has something to do more with the fact that she is saving herself until marriage.

Part of me wants to allow her to come home since she has no family to comfort her there and I know the pain she is going through right now.

But the other half refuses to give in because the academic opportunities she is enjoying right now comes rarely and only to a few.

Did I raise a daughter to survive her generation?

BELEAGUERED MOM

Oh, to be young and foolish and horribly in love! Aren't these the elements that usually spell disaster? Torrents of emotions that know no boundaries?

You, as the beleaguered mother, will just have to watch and cringe and let the emotional upheaval of this irrationality die down on its own.

Your daughter who is deep in misery will not listen to words of wisdom or look at anything farther than tomorrow. She is hurting now, right this moment, and her whole being is flailing in all directions. There is nothing anyone can do about it.

You did right in bringing her up virtuous. In this age of throwaways and one-night-stands, no man can accuse your daughter of being a slut.

And, despite her heartbreak, she should be proud of herself for not giving in and giving up her virtue to this creep who only wanted one thing from her!

Puh-leese! She is young and her broken heart can be mended. In the deepest recesses of her mind, she should be relieved that she found out his true color this early!

Hold her hand and heart, albeit via long distance, and assure her that she is welcome to do whatever she wants to do with her life.

Do not pressure her into staying in school, even if you have to bite your tongue several times. In a calm, soft voice, tell her that everyone gets over all tragic love affairs, one way or another—hers being no exception.

She just has to allow time to heal her. And what better way to forget him than to go full speed ahead with her studies and come out with flying colors and the weapon to conquer the world—on her terms!

Tell her it will not be easy, but boy, will it be worth it! Assure her that from hereon, there is nowhere to go but up. Tears notwithstanding!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Visit www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo cohost the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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Text us your feedback:
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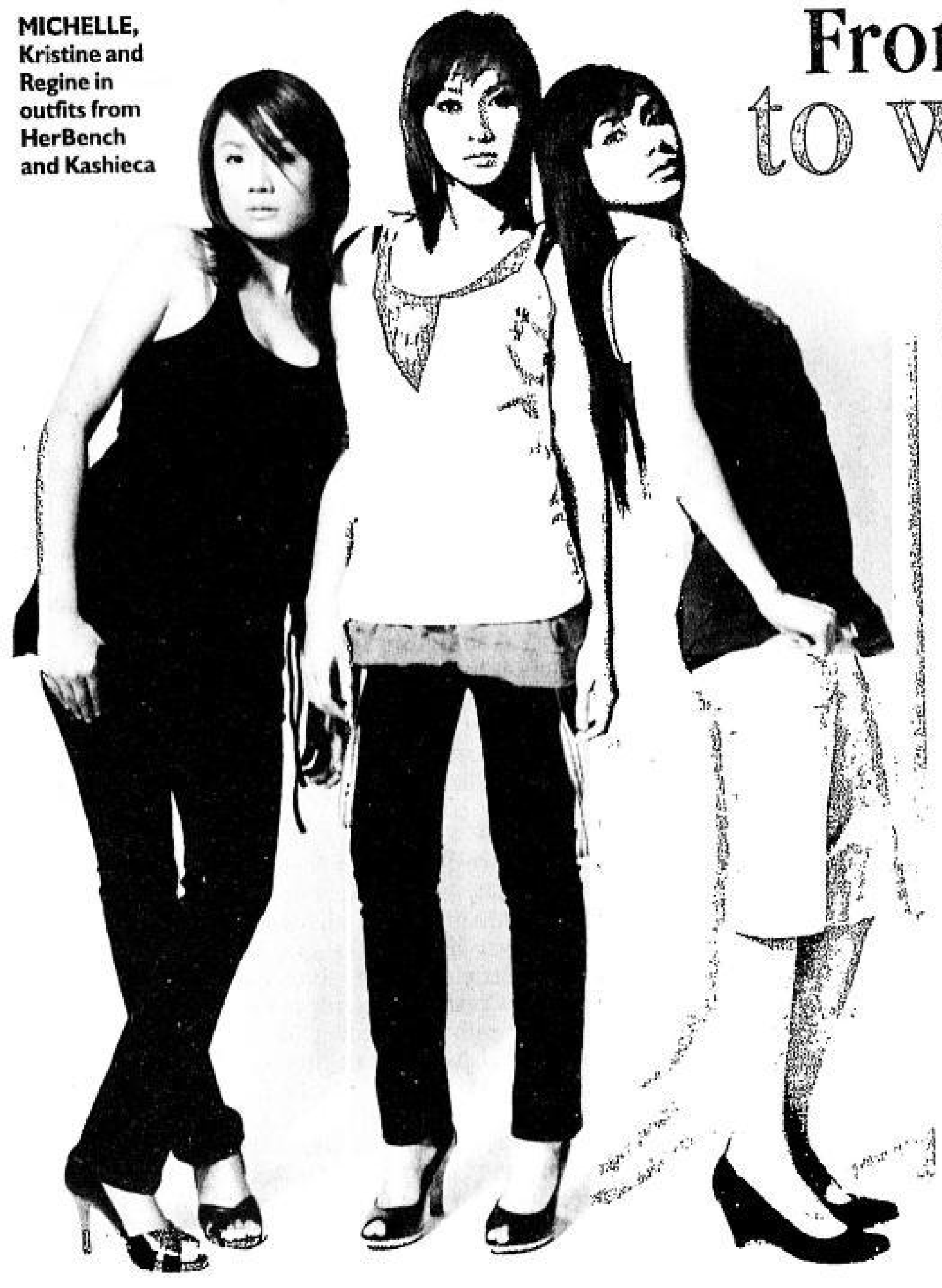
From wannabes to winners



MICHELLE, Kristine and Regine in outfits from HerBench and Kashieca

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A few weeks in the hands of top players in the fashion industry would transform the women of "Be Bench Model Search" into chic celebrities?

The right look, styling, walk and attitude are all in place in the top three women of the "Be Bench/ The Model Search" as they compete in the contest's last two episodes aired by ABS-CBN.

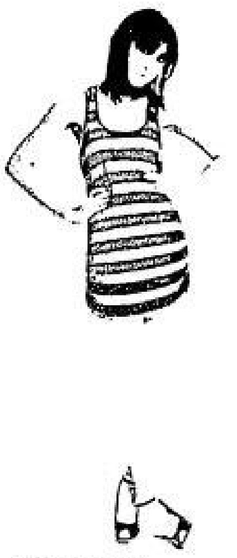
From a shaky start among thousands of model-hopefuls, the top three female contestants—along with the top three men—are raring to be among the hottest properties in town.

Michelle of Davao City, Regine of Quezon City and Kristine of Bulacan have become stars as they await their biggest break. But only one of will become the newest Bench image model. The transformation they have undergone is remarkable, from interacting with the public to gracing photo shoots to strutting their stuff on the catwalk.

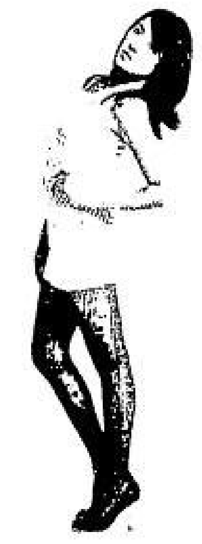
Big cash prizes await the two winners. The winners will also be awarded with Bench clothing sponsorship for 15 months, ABS-CBN talent management contract, Bench endorsement contract, and P250,000 worth of scholarship from STI. Each winner will also get a lot and a two-bedroom house at St. Monique Valais courtesy of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp.

"Be Bench: Beyond 20" grand finals is happening at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 11, 7 p.m. Free invites are given by Bench to those who buy their merchandise. Support your favorite finalists as they reach their dreams and see them turn from being anonymous to being Bench famous.

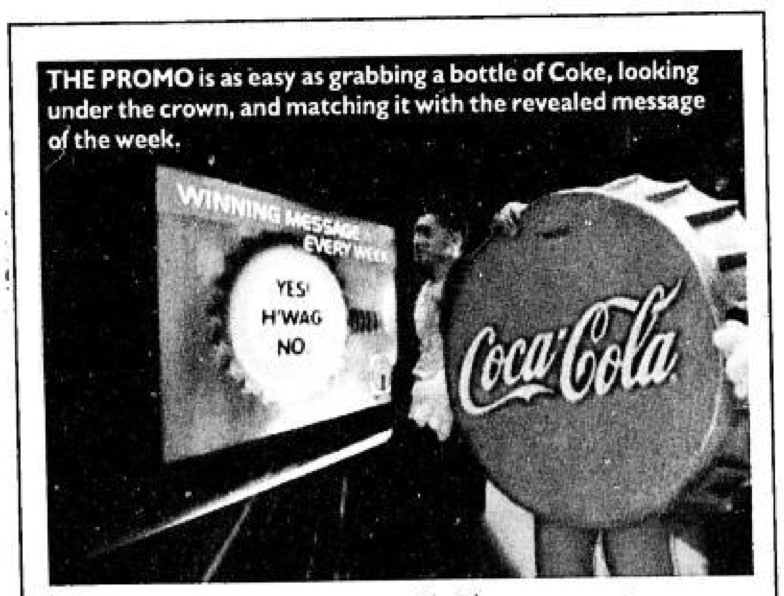
REGINE in polka-dot top with drawstring detail



KRISTINE in sleeveless metallic tunic top over spaghetti top



MICHELLE in spaghetti-strap tunic top



THE PROMO is as easy as grabbing a bottle of Coke, looking under the crown, and matching it with the revealed message of the week.

Yes to weekly prizes

COCA-COLA INTRODUCES "Yes Linggo-Linggo Promotion," where everyone can just simply drink any Coca-Cola product, collect the bottle crowns, and watch out for the winning "Yes Message Reveals" for six consecutive weeks.

Just buy any participating Coke products—Coke, Sprite or Royal (8 oz or 12 oz)—with especially marked "Yes!" crowns. If the announced "Yes Message" via GMA 7 and ABS-CBN every Sunday (with repeats of the announcement 5:30 p.m. daily) matches the message on your crowns, you win the corresponding weekly prizes.

Prizes vary each week: 100 Nokia 5300 Xpress Music phones (first week), 50 iPod Nanos (second week), 50 Sony PlayStation Portables (third week), 35 MacBooks (fourth week), 35 Scooter SK 125 (fifth week), and seven Honda Jazz cars (last week).

Everyone can also enjoy millions of crowns containing instant prizes of Jollibee meals with Coke drinks for the entire promo period, which ends Sept. 29.

If you miss the revealed message of the day, you can simply read the Monday edition of Philippine Daily Inquirer and INQUIRER Libre for the recap.

For instructions on how to claim your prizes, simply call the Coca-Cola hotlines at GMA, 813-2653 (813COKE); provincial areas, 1-800-888-2653 (1-800-888-COKE). Crowns with Jollibee meals as instant prizes can be presented at any Jollibee outlets for authentication. Last day for redemption of all the prizes is Nov. 29.

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND WE ARE EXTENDING OUR PROMO UNTIL SEPT 30, 2007
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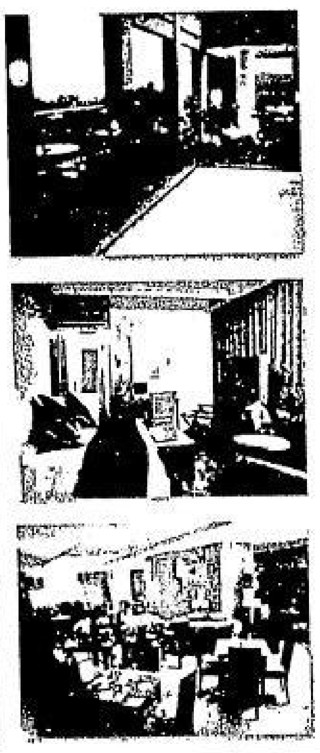

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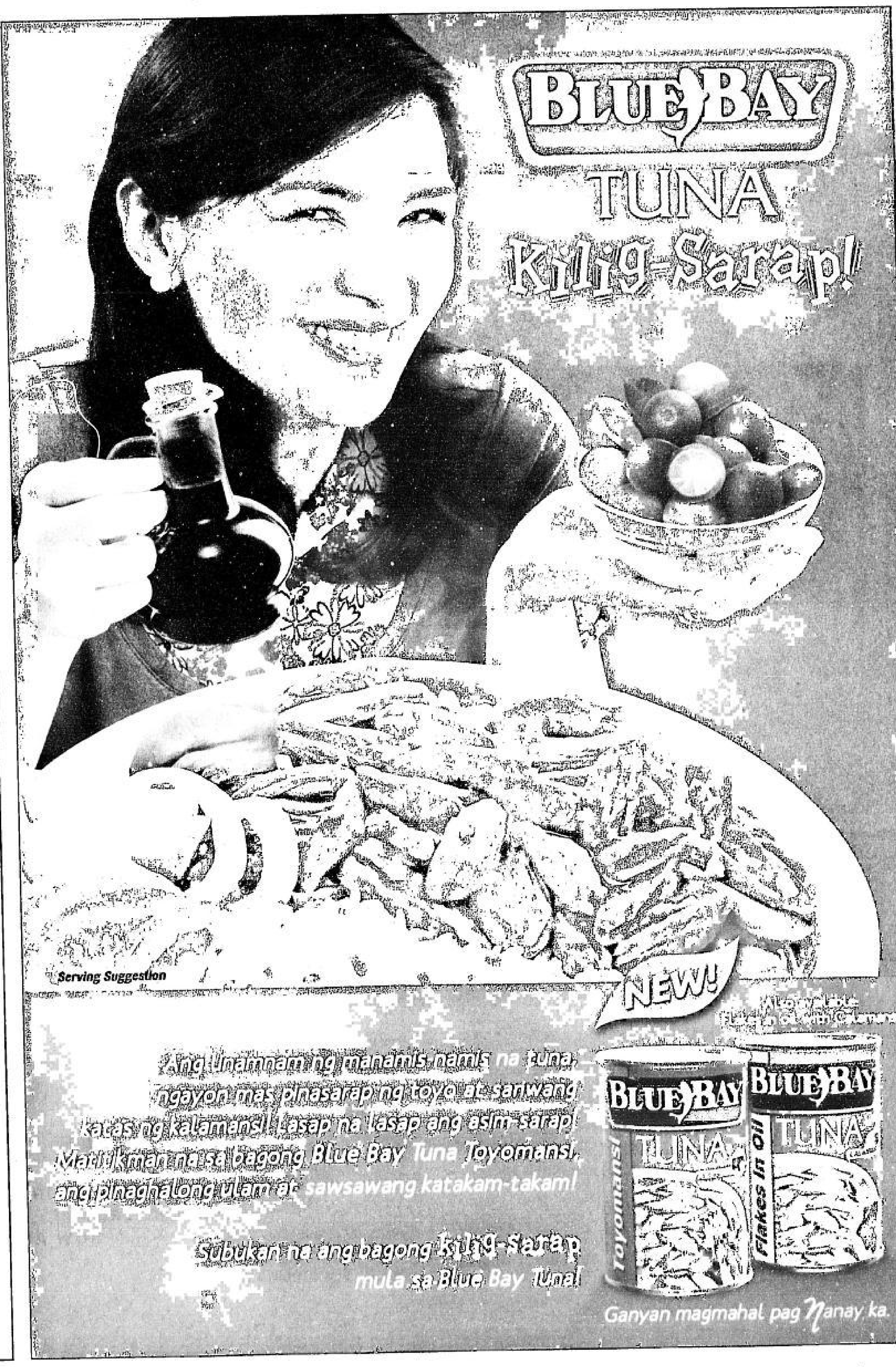

BLUE BAY
TUNA
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NEW!
Ang linamnam ng manamis-namis na tuna,
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katas ng kalamansi! Lasap na lasap ang asim-sarap!
Matitikman na sa bagong Blue Bay Tuna Toyomansi,
ang pinaghalong ulam at sawsawang katakam-takam!
Subukan na ang bagong Kilig-Sarap
mula sa Blue Bay Tuna!
BLUE BAY TUNA Toyomansi
BLUE BAY TUNA Flakes in Oil
Ganyan magmahal pag Nanay ka.

GMA artists Richard Gutierrez, "Marimar's" Marian Rivera and Billy Crawford

FACIAL Care family. Jackie Share, George and Mimi Siy

BENCH key players Miguel Pastor, Ben Chan and Juan Sarte

CLUB Mwah! theater show

BULGAR
Irene Fra

SEXY ladies Diana Zubiri and Francine Prieto with Philip Cu-Unjieng

THEATER guests Fortune Ledesma, Washington SyCip and Agnes Huibonhoa

AMANPULO sales manager Mafalda de Braganca flanked by Marilu and David Batchelor of Manila Peninsula

STRUMM'S boys Al Tengco, Johnny Velasquez and Mari Lagdameo

My midlife beauty crisis

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE BUBBLINESS OF YOUTH gets harder to capture as we enter our 40s. Thus, our perpetual search for the vaunted fountain of youth or in the absence of this, the quick fix—a visit to the beauty cum technology cum medical centers that have so successfully grown by leaps and bounds, creating people that have been nipped and tucked into looking younger and feeling healthier.

It was my birthday last week, my first step into my mid-40s. In midlife, is it time for a crisis? Is this why beauty clinics are so successful? When is it time to focus on the real meaning or purpose of being alive?

A little introspection can be a dangerous thing. In my own case, I don't really think about age. I believe if you are a positive influence to even just one person, you have achieved something great already.

> Midlife may mean the quick fix of beauty centers creating people that have been nipped and tucked into looking younger and feeling healthier

Rising above tragedy

Take the example of the very stylish **Jeannie Goulbourn**, who rose above the tragedy of her daughter's early death and put up the Natasha Goulbourn Foundation (tels. 8972217/896-2068; e-mail ngfoundation@gmail.com), which primarily focuses on the understanding of depression through education, and communication for those who suffer from it. In the midst of sadness and pain, there is an awakening that life is indeed short and yet, we can make a difference.

Together with her dearest friends, Jeannie created this foundation to help spread knowledge about depression—what causes it, how to manage it and how to heal from it. For her recent birthday, she celebrated a fabulously enjoyable fundraiser at Club Mwah! (www.clubmwah.com).

Boni Avenue seemed filled with double-parked luxury cars as the theater club was packed with Jeannie's guests and friends. Club Mwah! featured a Las Vegas-style show complete with dancers and top guest artists. The attraction of Mwah, of course, is that the dancers are a mix of gays and girls. Trying to tell them apart is impossible!

It is best to just sit back and enjoy the production numbers, which are always being changed and upgraded, as did business tycoon **Washington SyCip**, who came in costume as the king from "King and I," with **Fortune Ledesma** as Anna. The dancing went on way after the show and Jeannie was able to raise a lot for the foundation, thanks to all her supporters and friends.

At Strumm's

Death is really hard to deal with but in time, you learn to cope and appreciate life more. Before my late brother **Louie Prieto** passed away many years ago, he put up Strumm's as a premiere music lounge that offered the best show bands performing in an acoustically balanced club. With his close friends, like **Mari Lagdameo** and the late **EJ Litton**, Strumm's brought the local band scene to its highest popularity.

In celebration of their birthdays, **Noel Bautista** and **Choy Cojuangco** recently invited long-time friends to Strumm's to relive the '80s and '90s hits. It was wonderful to see so many of Louie's friends who have kept Strumm's as the best place to listen and dance to live music.

As a contestant on GMA's new hit TV show, "Celebrity Duets," I have become more appreciative of artists and the discipline they have to perform nightly. At Strumm's, Dr. **Jay Ongsiako** was kind enough to be my duet partner.

GMA family Anna
daughter Annette

Birthday kids

Recent birthd
"Celebrity Duets'
celebrated his 40
at the Manila Po
true love, **Regin**
dresses and dash
talents filled the
and Queen we
Gomez, who ga
atop a towering
The day befo
birthday bash of
Chan. He, indee
between his 20
magic, his TV sh

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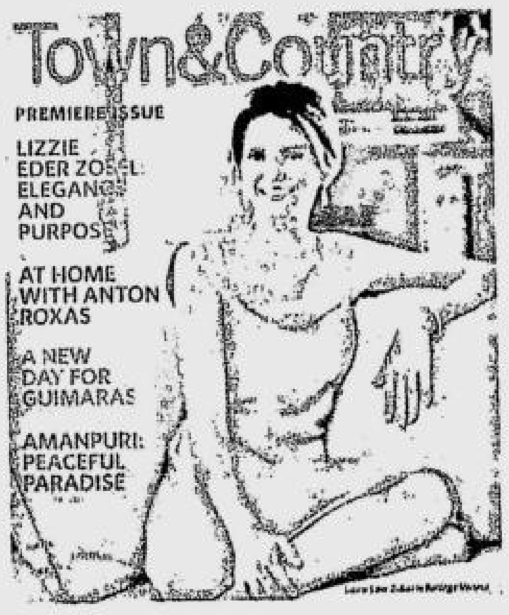

ESTABLISHED IN AMERICA IN 1846.
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T man Mario Katigbak and
ncisco

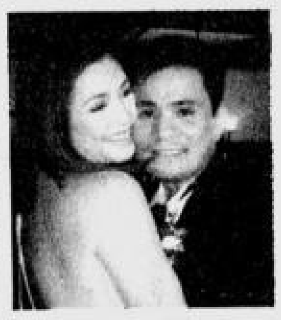
BIRTHDAY girl Jeannie Goulbourn, singer Bituin Escalante and Frances Lim

GOOD friends Carlos Elizalde, Vicky Zubiri and Tatler editor Anton San Diego

CLUB Mwah! owner Pocholo Malillin with Sea Princess

PARTY couple Jenni and Tom Epperson

belle Rama Gutierrez, Tessie Gozon and
Gozon-Abroger, and Wilma Galvante


NEW COUPLE Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid

"CELEBRITY Duets" judge Louie Ocampo and fun wife Jojo

MR. PURE Energy Gary Valenciano and Gigi Alcasid

y celebrators include
host **Ogie Alcasid**, who
with a Prom Night Party
Club together with his
Velasquez. Pretty prom
ng suits worn by Kapuso
ballroom. The Prom King
e **Richard** and **Lucy**
nely posed like a couple
rthday cake.

e Ogie's party was the
ench's head honcho, **Ben**
has so much to celebrate
ears of Bench marketing
on ABS-CBN and his being one of the most successful retail giants in the country. Despite his successes, this low-key, fashion genius has such a kind heart and has supported so many of my charities through the years.

Jenni's day

INQUIRER fashion girl **Jenni Epperson** celebrated her big day at Club Embassy with her cool, close friends. She had the fashionable crowd come to the hip party wearing funky eyewear. For the first time, I used my real reading glasses in public.

Yes, I have to admit that my eyesight is fading, perhaps due to endless hours in front of my computer as I type out this column. Or maybe it's just age. Who knows? Anyway, with age comes wisdom and a whole new vista of eyewear to shop for.

My day

For my birthday, I decided to hold off all celebrations until I get my birthday wish. I celebrated it instead in the elegant private dinner launch of Bulgari's Assioma D. watches at the Old Manila at the Manila Peninsula. Super host **Mario Katigbak** presented the latest collection to his classy guests with pretty models parading the rose gold, white and yellow gold timepieces.

In between the slow-roasted veal fillet and the raspberry chocolate mousse, I sure hope my husband **Dennis** was full enough to think about my birthday gift. Or maybe he will wait until I receive my birthday wish! My wish is still a secret at the moment, so I can pray in peace that it comes true. At least, Dennis should be happy that it's not one of those beautiful, diamond-encrusted Bulgari timepieces.

Isabel Preysler, cover girl

While we all struggle to age gracefully, certain things just get better and better. Tatler magazine just turned 6 and its September anniversary issue is the grandest ever, with over 300 pages.

Isabel Preysler graces the cover and the photo shoot in her Madrid home is both glamorous and beautiful. Not satisfied with a European story, intrepid editor **Anton San Diego** and ace photographer **Raymund Isaac** also crossed the Atlantic to feature industrialist and philanthropist **Loida Nicolas Lewis** in her New York City apartment overlooking Central Park.

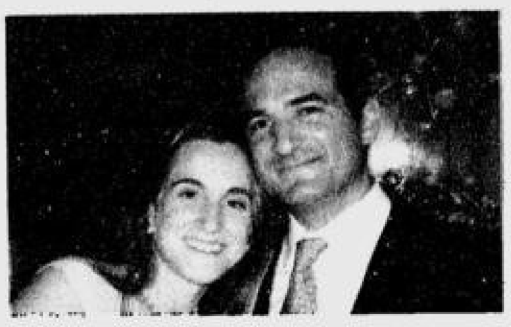
As the magazine says, Tatler is "sensational at six!" And if you pick up a copy, you'll see a real champagne of a magazine—there are no nips or tucks or any other beauty shortcuts in Tatler!

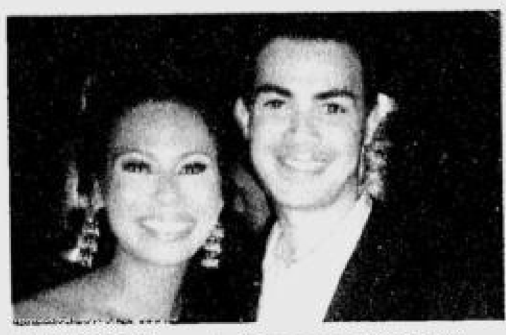
E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

CROONER Jose Mari Chan and lovely wife Maryanne

BIRTHDAY dad Choy, Gabbie and Marisa Cojuangco

OGIE'S folks Minnie and Miniong Alcasid


ELEGANT couple Sophia and Patxi Elizalde


HANDSOME couple Trina and Chris Feist

MUSICAL director Raul and Cacay Mitra

BULGARI guests Isabel Bondoc and Chatty Roxas

COOL brothers Rico and Noel Bautista

citibank let's get it done
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yoplait Hi-Lo
Lactoserum Lactic Acid Lactacyd
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Be ravishing and gorgeous. Let today's beauty gurus show you how.
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Looking and feeling good starts with taking care of you. Allow us to pamper you.
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Catch the latest and sexiest fitness craze:
- pole dancing
- striptease
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Sweet Sexy Thang
A delicious bazaar brought to you by:
metroactive METRO L hM CHALK
September 15, 2007
INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA

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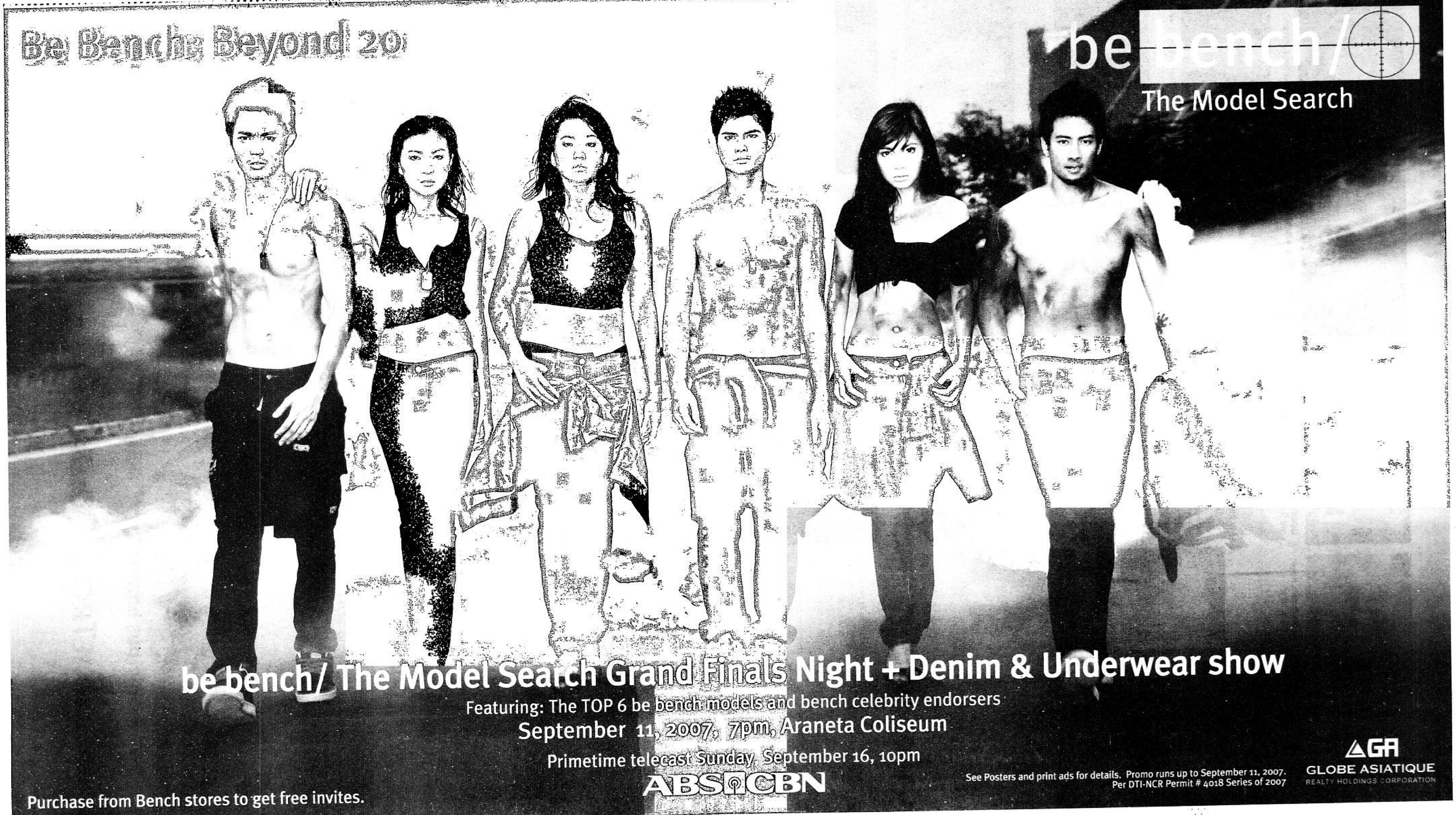

Be Bench: Beyond 20

be bench/

The Model Search

be bench/ The Model Search Grand Finals Night + Denim & Underwear show

Featuring: The TOP 6 be bench models and bench celebrity endorsers

September 11, 2007, 7pm, Araneta Coliseum

Primetime telecast Sunday, September 16, 10pm

ABS-CBN

See Posters and print ads for details. Promo runs up to September 11, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4018 Series of 2007

GA
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Purchase from Bench stores to get free invites.

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at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net

SAVE
THE
RAVE

INSIDE

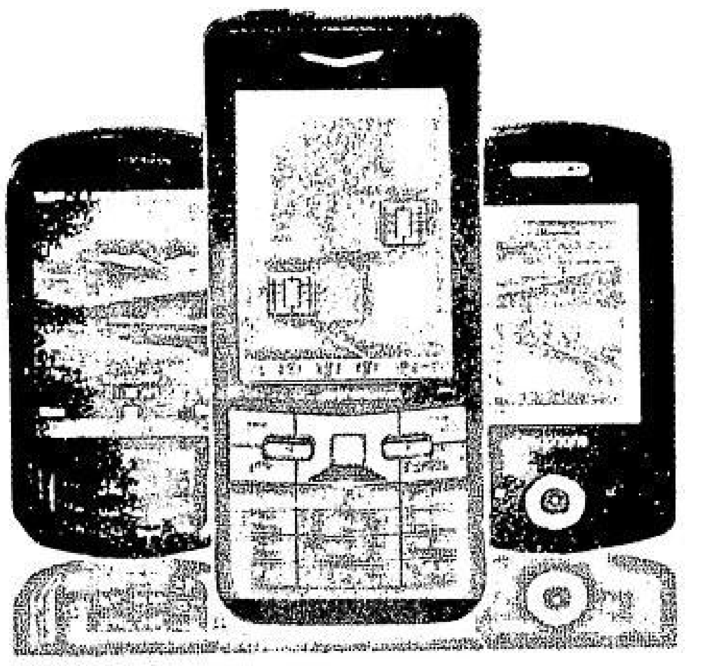
Another Thalia copy and a leading man called Ana Rushes /G4

A star is born in Venice Only in Hollywood /G1

Forbidden questions for DJ Mo Take Five /F3

Solid Group launches the first Dual Active SIM phone

You read the headline right. A Dual Active SIM phone.



That means no more rummaging around in your bag for that other phone. No more lugging around of two clunky mobile phones. No more SIM swapping and switching off one line to use the other.

A first in the Philippines, the new MyPhone T22 Duo activates both your lines at the same time. That means that you can make and receive calls and texts from two different lines without switching the other off.

I Lit

Dual Life.
It may sound like something only James Bond has, but really, everyone has a dual life.

Work and friends. Hobbies and family. Day job and sidelines. For whatever your dual life is, the MyPhone T22 Duo makes things a whole lot easier for you.

The T22 Duo is compatible with any SIM, and with any network. Basically, it's two phones in one sleek package.

damn :tty toc

With a 2.4 inch LCD, you can watch a full-length movie, watch videos, or listen to your favorite playlist with its stereo quality sound. This dual band baby's got a 2 megapixel camera, video camera and GPRS.

Not to mention that this ultra sleek phone has a touch screen too.

Aside from the T22 Duo, MyPhone also offers the T11 Multimedia Phone with webcam function and the T33 with Windows Mobile.

SOLIDGROUP

olid Group. Pioneers the Dual Age

MyPhone is the newest technology brand of Solid Group Inc. Constantly striving to provide quality products for the Filipino, Solid Group was responsible for bringing in brands such as Sony, Samsung, TCL, Sanyo and Kia Motors while setting up nationwide service centers. A leader of technological innovation, Solid Group also owns MyDestiny cable and high-speed Internet.

David Lim, president of Solid Group boasts of big plans for MyPhone. "We are the first company to come out with a dual SIM phone that can activate both lines at the same time. Our plan is to pursue the technology, and further it with innovations in style and technology for the future MyPhones. We want to make MyPhone synonymous with the 'Dual Age of Mobile Phones'".

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Dual SIM. Both Active. One Phone.
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Watch a full-length movie or two on our 2.4" screen.

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Have complete artistic freedom with our still and video camera.

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Have an instant party with our music player and 3D stereo quality speakers.

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Available nationwide at all Ayid, CMK Cellphone Accessories, ComWorks, Inc., Hello, Mega Cellular Network Inc., Memo Express, Quality Cellular Phone Center and Wellcom branches.
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ENTERTAINMENT

ie G. Velarde
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (S at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net

INSIDE

Another Thalia copy and a leading man called Ana Rushes /G4

A star is born in Venice Only in Hollywood /G1

Forbidden questions for DJ Mo Take Five /F3

SAVE
THE
RAVE

Solid Group launches the first Dual Active SIM phone

You read the headline right.

two phr in oh ek packa
ut iv u pov
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MyPhone

brand Group constantly striving to provide quality products the Filipino, Solid Group sponsi or bringing in brands such as Sony, Sanyo and Kia Motors while setting up leader of technological innovation own MyDestiny cable and high-spee

David Lim Group boasts of big plans for MyPhone the company to come out wi can activate both lines at pursue the technology and further it with innovation in style and technology MyPhone. We want to make MyPhone with th Age of Mobile Phones

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phone

VIDEO PLAYER
Watch a full-length movie or two on our 2.4" screen.

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Dual SIM. Both Active. One Phone.
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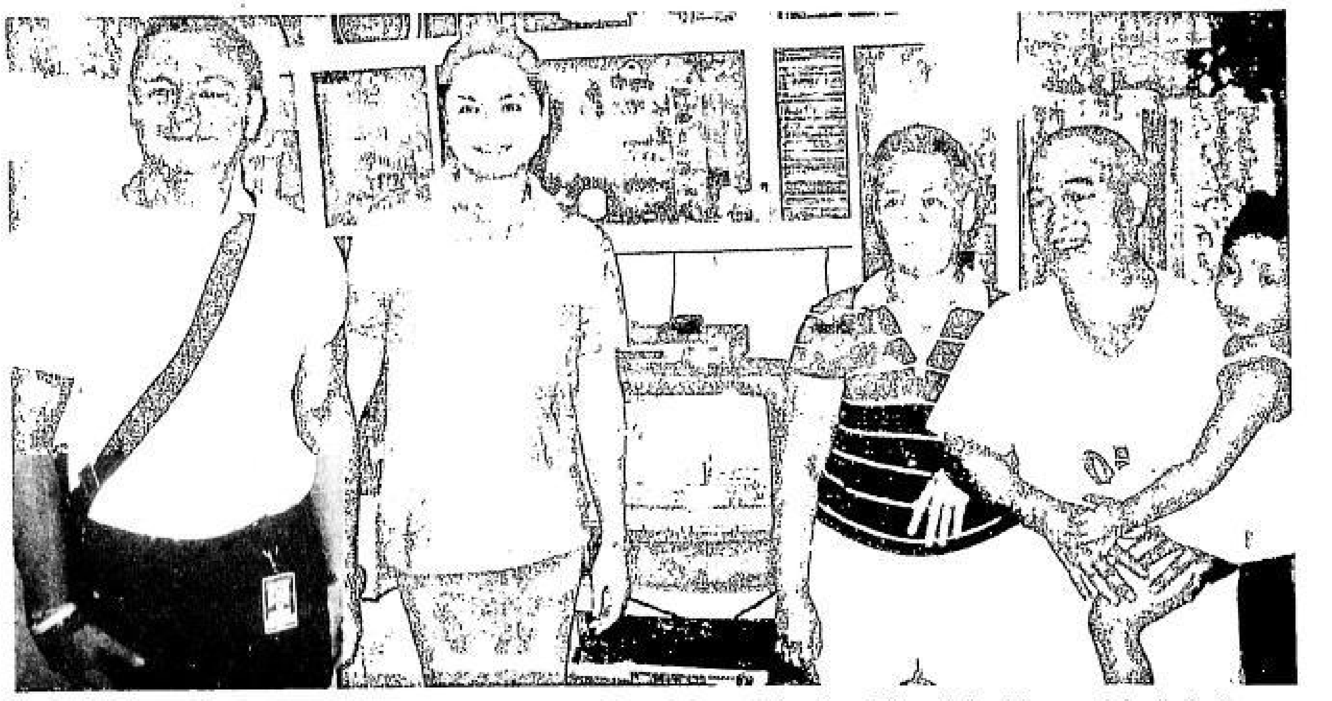
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME



KAPAMILYA executives Charo Santos-Concio, second from left, and Monchet Olives, left, visit one of the "pilot" families during the pioneering tests for the network's digital broadcasts.

ABS-CBN to launch digital TV

ABS-CBN IS PREPARING TO bring digital TV (DTTV) broadcasting to the Philippines in the first quarter of 2008.

With digital broadcasting's superior image, improved audio quality, better reception capabilities and high-definition broadcast potential, DTTV, network officials say, is ABS-CBN's way of "bringing global standards to Philippine broadcast."

The United Kingdom is planning on switching off all analog telecasts in October 2007, and the US will broadcast exclusively in digital starting February 2009.

This digital rollout means that ABS-CBN will be broadcasting both analog and digital signals at the same time. Households that have not decided whether or not to go digital will still be able to see the regular broadcast, while digital households will be able to see cable-quality TV image and sound from the revolutionary network project, dubbed "Cable TV *ng Masa*."

Deo Jordan, head of the Digital Broadcast Operations for ABS-CBN Broadcast Engineering Division (BED), says tests for DTTV started late 2006 in San Fernando, Pampanga and San Miguel, Bulacan.

"The sample audience in these areas received several hundred set-top boxes (STBs)," he relates. "We conducted surveys and focus group discussions with them. The tests were very informative."

Jordan explains: "The tests supplied us with data on how to better design the transmission system, including information on how many transmitters we need to install to cover Mega Manila, at what power level we need to broadcast, and what the total cost may be if we do digital broadcasting full-time. We also realized that we needed to raise awareness on how easy it is to use an STB to convert an ordinary TV to receive DTTV signals."

ABS-CBN plans to conduct test broadcasts in Metro Manila soon.

His first major film post-Harry

BRITISH ACTOR DANIEL RADCLIFFE is shown in photo with Australian Teresa Palmer. They co-star in "December Boys," his first major movie role outside of the Harry Potter series.

Radcliffe, 18, says he hopes to debut on Broadway next year in a reprise of his London role in "Equus," where he shed his clothes and the Potter mantle.

He says the the prospect of acting in New York is "terrifying."

"December Boys" opens in the United States, Britain and Australia this month. The movie is about four orphans growing up at a Catholic convent in outback Australia.

Radcliffe reports that he will begin working on "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the sixth movie in the seven part series, this month. *Reuters*

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GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3
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Regular run begins September 19 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
Ayala Cinemas
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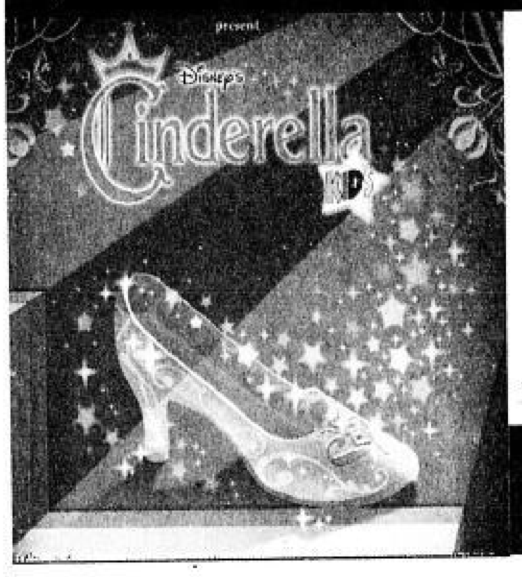
glorietta Greenbelt Town Trinoma



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DISTURBIA 12:55 / 3:05 / 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:50
NANCY DREW 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
DAY WATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
LAST LEGION 2:35 / 7:15
1408 12:15 / 4:55 / 9:50
SKINWALKERS 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
RUSH HOUR 3 1:10 / 5:30 / 9:50
Globe Platinum Cinema
THE INVASION 1:10 / 5:30 / 9:50
WAITRESS 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
EVAN ALMIGHTY 3:20 / 7:40
HAIRSPRAY [illegible]
DISTURBIA 4:45 / 9:00
NANCY DREW 12:35 / 2:40 / 6:50
Ali Mall 5
1 DISTURBIA 12:10 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10
2 RUSH HOUR 3 12:10 / 3:20 / 7:30 / 6:40
3 NANCY DREW 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:40
4 A LOVE STORY 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20
5 SKINWALKERS 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45
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GUARANTEED SEATS
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DAY WATCH 12:00, 2:30, 5:25, 8:20, 11:10 R-18
DISTURBIA 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
NANCY DREW 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 G
INVASION 3:20, 8:10 PG-13
1408 1:00, 5:45, 10:40 PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 NANCY DREW MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
2 DISTURBIA MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
3 HAIRSPRAY MTRCB GP 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
4 DAY WATCH MTRCB R-13 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
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1408 PG13 6:00, 8:10
DAY WATCH R13 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50
NANCY DREW G 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
THE INVASION PG13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
SKIN WALKERS R18 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10
DISTURBIA PG13 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10:20
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CINEMA 3 DAY WATCH 11:50, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30 R-13
CINEMA 4 DISTURBIA 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 5 NANCY DREW 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
September 15, 2007 Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae 8:00 PM
September 22, 2007 Jeff Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao 8:00 PM
September 29, 2007 Sugarfree 8:00 PM
October 08 & 09, 2007 "Alamat" Stageplay [illegible]
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
Sept. 21, 28, 2007 Drag - Ons 10:00 PM
Sept 12, 19, 26, 2007 Cerrudo Classico 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Forbidden questions for Mo Twister

TAKE FIVE

If he could have a one-night stand with a star of his choice, he would pick ...

By Marinel R. Cruz

MO TWISTER, THE controversial disc jockey who asks "forbidden questions" on his morning FM radio show on Magic 89.9, swears he doesn't purposely quarrel with show biz celebs just to create a buzz for his program.

"'Controversial' is a negative word," Mo Twister told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview. "We wanted the show to make noise, to become successful, so we promoted it. But we didn't want to elicit negative reactions."

The 40 personal/provocative questions Mo Twister asks every Wednesday during the two-hour "Hornet's Nest" have offended many subjects, including Maui Taylor, Cristy Fermin and Lolit Solis. Singer Vina Morales slapped model Borgy Manotoc over statements he had made on Mo's show.

Last year, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) said Mo's accreditation could be suspended if he continued to violate KBP rules against on-air profanity and sexual innuendo. The KBP said it was closely monitoring the DJ's show. It has another program to watch then, this time on television, as Mo just started hosting "Kabarkada: Break the Bank," a game show on Studio 23, weeknights from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

"It's an interactive game show very much like 'Deal or No Deal,'" explained Mo. "We give away big cash prizes. There are suitcases, too. The difference is that the contestants are not in the studio; they join in by phone."

Aren't you afraid that people you've offended on your radio show will get back at you?

There was a time when they got really angry, but that was when the show was still new. It has a very different format from what [radio listeners are] used to. I hope people realize that it's all [just] for fun.

Do you still ask the same kind of questions?

Actually, my questions now are more "forbidden." But the celebrities and the audience have gotten used to them.

Didn't you have second thoughts about agreeing to host the new game show, since you're more identified with GMA 7 because of "Show Biz Central?"

The people who offered the show to me are people I worked with 10 years ago. I love Studio 23. I used to host a show here. (Mo is also a host of "Y Speak" on Studio 23.)

A "forbidden" question for you: If you could have a one-night-stand with a celebrity, who would you pick?

I'd say Cristine Reyes. I'd also like to say that Anne Curtis is the prettiest girl in the country. *Ang lakas pa ng* sex appeal.

Lolit Solis or Cristy Fermin?

Sleeping with Lolit Solis would be like sleeping with my mom. She and I are great now. With Cristy, it would be one rough and angry session. Our current relationship is very volatile. I would pick Manay Lolit because the experience would be more romantic than with Cristy.

Cristy and I are still not speaking. Last time I saw her, she wanted to physically fight with me. I'm not going to fight her *naman*. I don't think she intends to patch things up with me. I'm okay with that. I don't read her columns. I don't really care whether she likes me or not.

Why don't you make the first move?

Last time I tried apologizing to her, she wanted to punch me. I think I'd just wait for her to make the move.

Are you and Maui Taylor getting along now?

Maui and I haven't spoken for months. But we recently exchanged text messages about a contest we had on the show. To my text message, she replied: "Okay, thank you dear." I think just by that—and all the apologies that we've thrown at each other on television—I think we're already fine.

How are you and (ex-girlfriend) Janette McBride getting along?

We broke up more than two years ago, because of religious differences. I really hope she does well. I hope people would eventually separate our images from each other. She doesn't have anything to do with the stuff that I'm doing.

She never tried to convert you?

I gave it a try, but things like faith and religion are very sensitive. I agree with 90 percent of what [Christians] believe in, but of course if you're not ready to give your last 10 percent, in the end you're just going to have doubts.

What's the truth to the rumor that you have a child with her?

We never had a child. You can ask her and she'll tell you the same thing. To prove that we don't have it, I dare anybody say that they saw us with a child, or Janette [pregnant].

HE'S hosting a new game show on Studio 23.

APO : 38 AND STILL COUNTING!

After the resounding success of "Mga Kuwento ng APO...38 Years of Music and Friendship" held at the PICC Plenary Hall last August 10, the APO HIKING SOCIETY are eager to reprise their show for the followers and friends who may not have caught it.

As was originally planned, Jim (who now resides in Australia) flew home immediately after the concert to be with his family for a few weeks. But a bout with a life-threatening virus had him confined in a hospital isolation room in Blacktown, a suburb of Sydney. Professional care, great support from family and friends and a week or two of recuperation will have him back in top form.

The APO HIKING SOCIETY resumes their Philippine concert series this September with shows in Cebu, Masbate, Lucena, Los Baños, Batangas and other provinces.

In Metro Manila, their successful concert will be restaged in a more intimate venue – at the **Music Museum on Oct. 12 & 13, 2007** entitled "***The APO COLLECTION at the MUSEUM***".

Join the APO in a night of thanksgiving and celebration! For reservations or information, call THE THIRDLINE, INC. at telephone numbers 426-0103, 426-5301, 09189379209, 09175324556, 09216650923.

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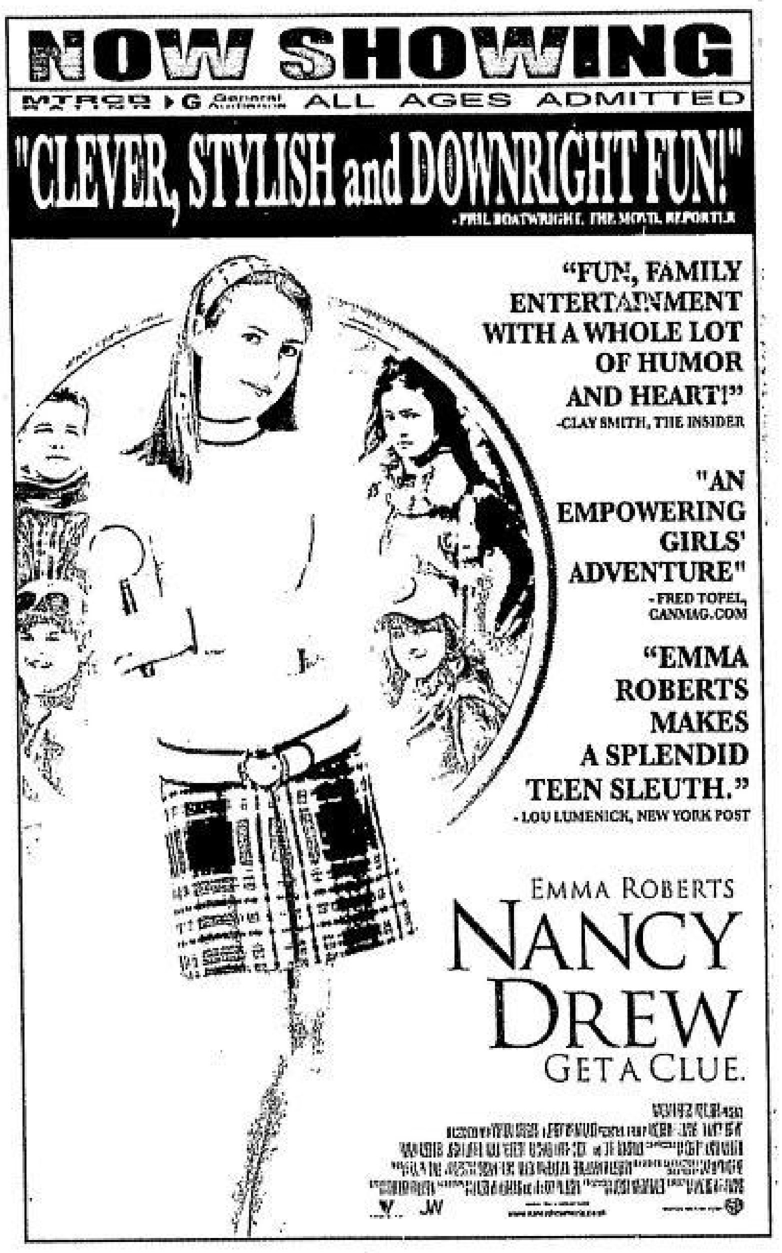
WE HAVE WITNESSED THE BEGINNING...
WE HAVE SEEN THE APOCALYPSE...
NOW WE FACE EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION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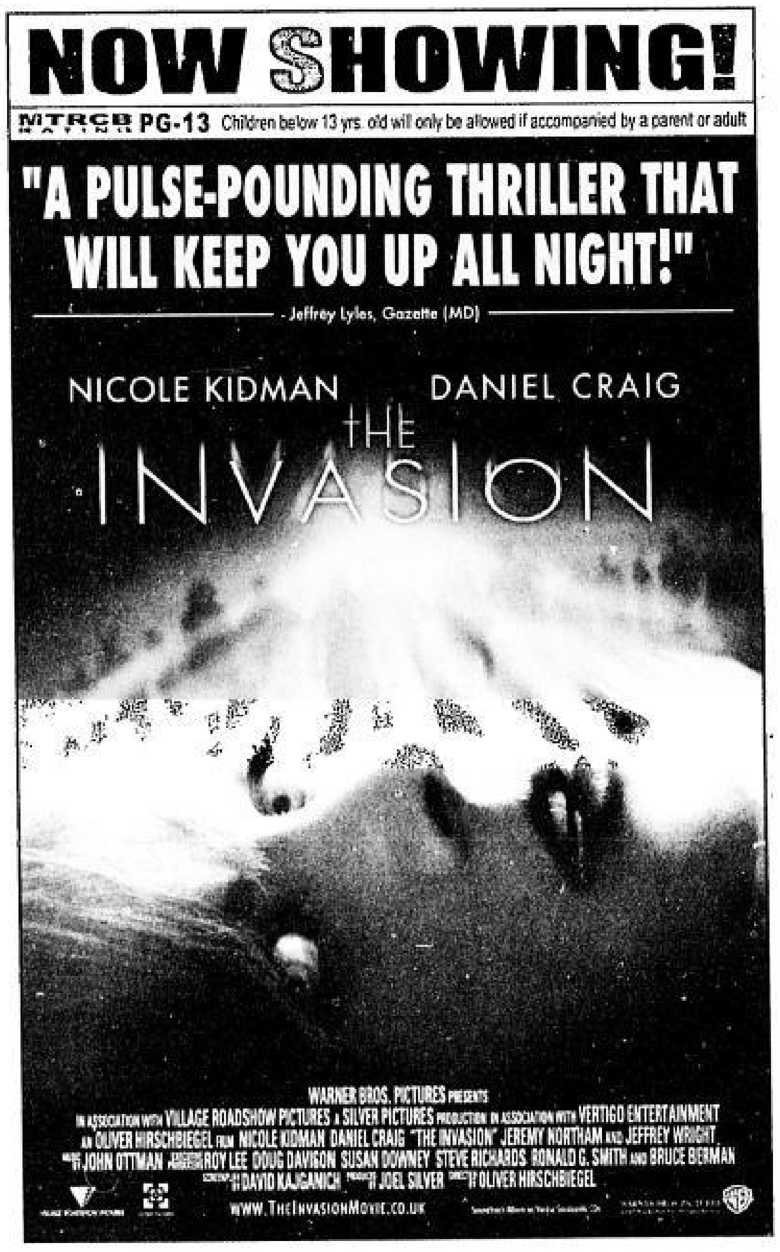
EMMA ROBERTS
NANCY DREW
GET A CLUE.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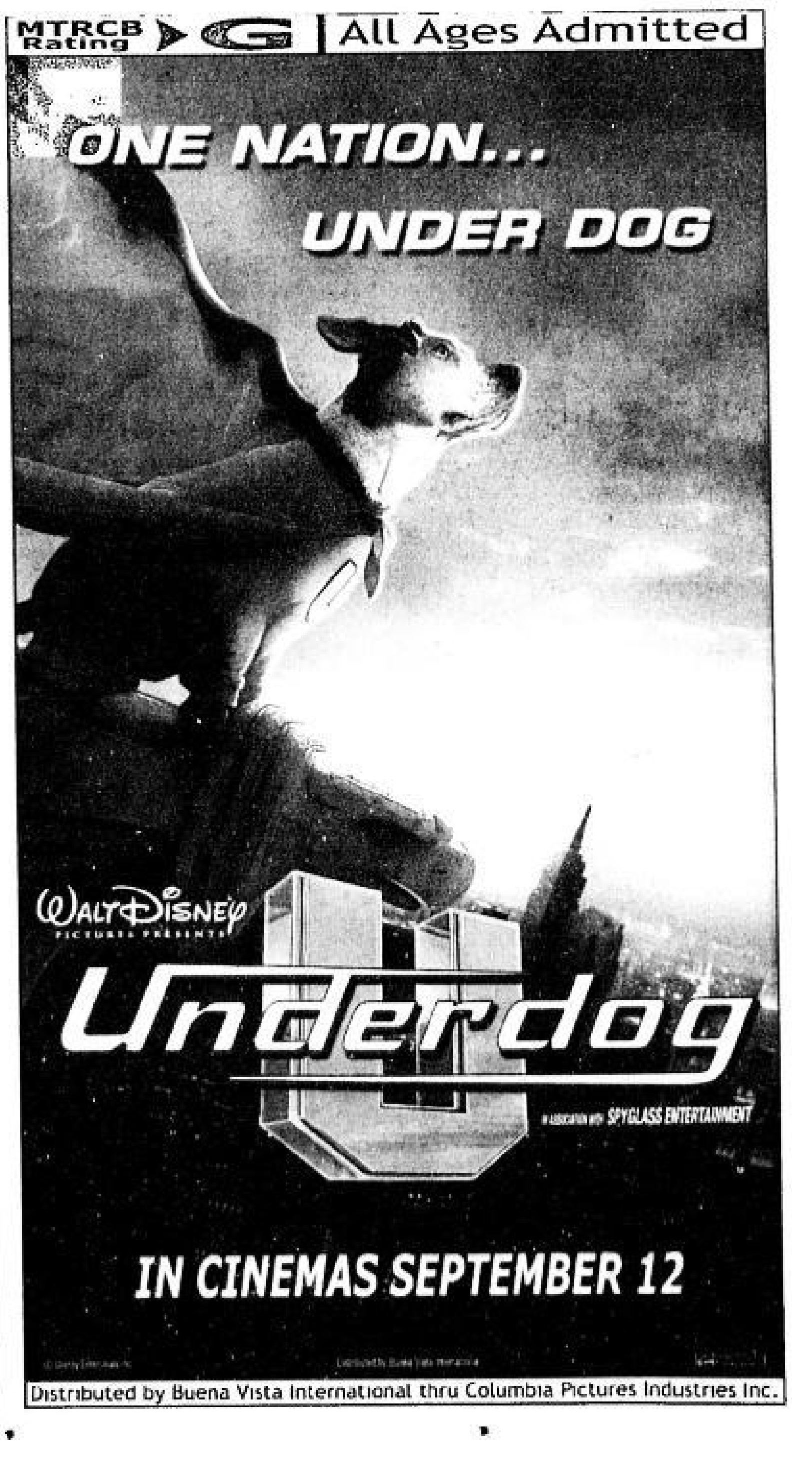
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ONE NATION... UNDER DOG
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
Underdog
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT
IN CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 12
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GALLERIA

1 THE INVASION • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 DISTURBIA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 indieSine:TRIBU
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 DAYWATCH
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 SKINWALKERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 A LOVE STORY
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45.

9 NANCY DREW
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 1408
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 DISTURBIA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

2 THE LAST LEGION

3 1408
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 NANCY DREW
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 A LOVE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 DAY WATCH
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

7 SKINWALKERS
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

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1 THE LAST LEGION 11:00 1:10
EVAN ALMIGHTY 3:20 5:10 7:00 9:00

2 A LOVE STORY
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

3 SKINWALKERS
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

4 1408
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

5 RUSH HOUR 3

6 THE INVASION
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00

7 DISTURBIA
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 NANCY DREW
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES

936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 DISTURBIA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 NANCY DREW
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

PIONEER

1 NANCY DREW
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

2 DISTURBIA
1:45 4:05 6:25 8:45

3 SKINWALKERS
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

4 DAY WATCH
12:25 3:10 6:55 8:40

STA. ROSA

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1 1408
2 CASA
3 THREE
4 THE INVASION

LIPA

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1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 RISE

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 SINKING of JAPAN
2 THE INVASION
3 THREE
4 1408

IMUS

(046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 THREE
4 A LOVE STORY

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 SINKING of JAPAN
2 RISE
3 CASA
4 THREE

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 LICENSE to WED
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY

STARMILLS

1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE
5 SINKING of JAPAN
6 RUSH HOUR 3

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1 BLIND DATING
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 BORDERTOWN
4 A LOVE STORY
5 CASA
6 THREE

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1 THE INVASION
2 A LOVE STORY
3 CASA
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 DON'T LOOK BACK

MTRCB PG-13
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MANDY MOORE
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---

CHEER FACTOR

LONDON—U2 SINGER BONO, WHO DUETED WITH LUCIANO PAVAROTTI ON A single about Bosnia, hailed the late Italian tenor as "a great volcano of a man who sang fire." He revealed that his band had a nickname for the huge opera legend. "Great, great fun—'the Pavlova' we used to call him. If he wanted you to do something for him, he was impossible to turn down," Bono said in a statement posted on U2's website on Thursday. *AFP*

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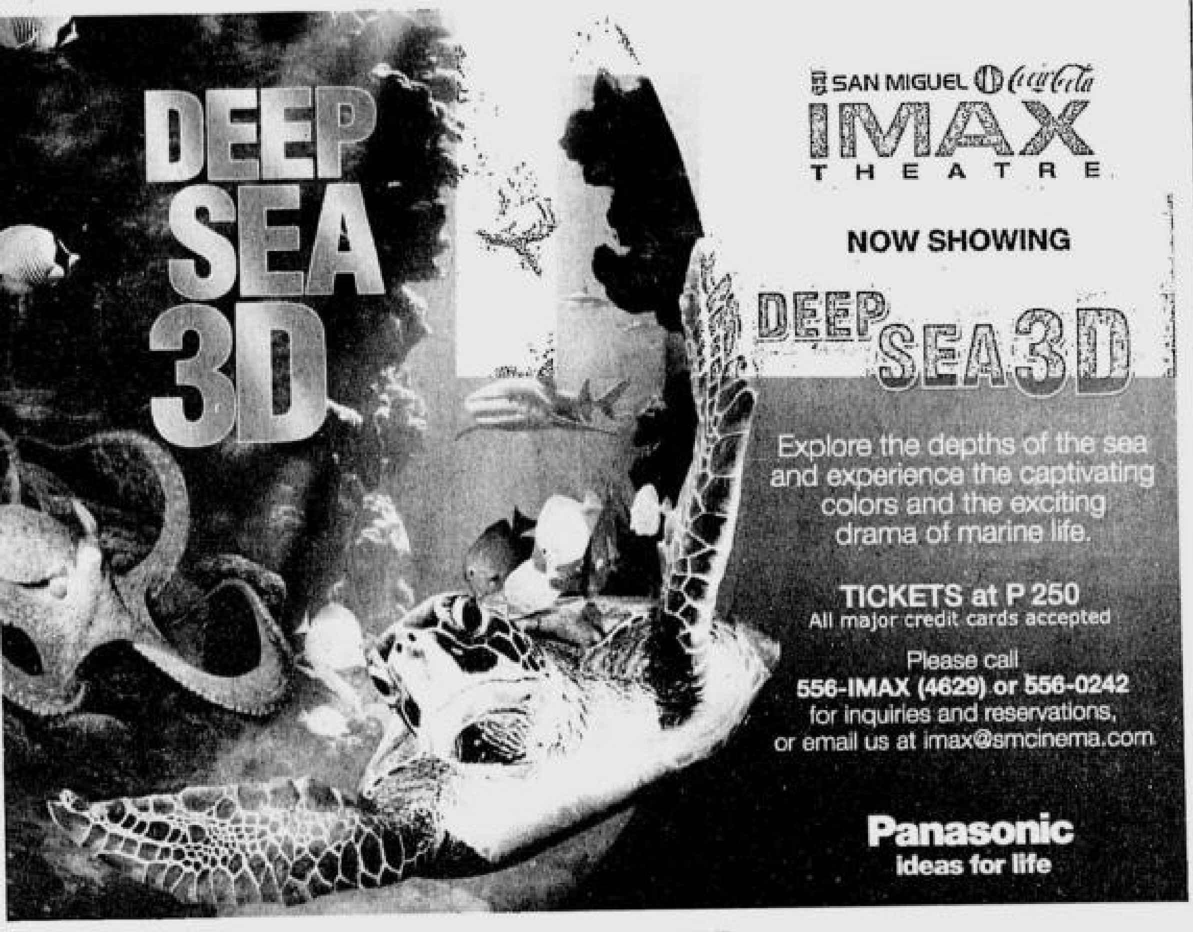

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Unearthly, unwieldy fantasy epic

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

A SEQUEL TO THE RUSSIAN fantasy blockbuster "Night Watch" ("Nochnoi Dozor"), the sprawling "Day Watch" ("Dnevnoi Dozor"), isn't very comprehensible. That doesn't mean there aren't big action encounters or aesthetically pleasing stunts and effects. It's just that when it slows down for character development, it screeches rather uncomfortably.

Murder mystery

Like its predecessor, "Day Watch" (written and directed by Timur Bekmambetov) is based on a series of books set in present-day Moscow. An uneasy, centuries-old treaty is gradually breaking down, its key players finding themselves in situations that may just renew hostilities.

The Light and Dark factions' crumbling truce could herald the end of the world if a murder mystery and other connected puzzles aren't solved soon.

The sequel follows the further dealings of Night Watch operative Anton (Konstantin Khabensky), whose estranged young son Yegor (Dmitry Martinov) is now a much-touted figure of power by the Dark ones. Anton is also mentoring Svetlana (Mariya Poroshina), who's potentially Yegor's equivalent in the Light ranks.

Anton has to prove his innocence in a case that reeks of a malefactor's machinations. He must also protect the Chalk of Fate, a *deus ex machina* object of power that might prove deadly in the wrong hands.

The storytelling gets screwy from time to time, and character-focusing moments are some of its weak points. It slows down considerably in a sequence where Anton spends time in the body of the sorceress Olga (Galina Tyunina).

That part gets unduly sitcomish, unwieldy and befuddling.

Anton's drama with his son in a crucial scene also lacks the transmission of emotion and buildup, which dulls whatever impact it was aiming for.

"Day Watch" traipses between parts that you'll take seriously, and parts that just make you shudder; at times it feels like a mashing of genres.

The film begins with a brief recap to acquaint those who haven't seen its predecessor. The dubbing is decent, although there are times when the visuals hardly match the voices, and vice versa.

The transitions to other scenes aren't seamless, either. Sometimes, the reality-based parts are more patchwork-like than the dream sequences.

Sleight of hand

There's admirable sleight of hand in some rapid action scenes and slow-mo effects, but for all its occasional loudness and spasmodic fits, it's hard to feel anything for the characters.

They're barely likeable, and the absence of emotional connectivity goes hand in hand with the lack of immediacy. We see a limited view of the unearthly beings' lives, encumbered by the politics that applies only to them.

Absence of emotional connectivity comes with a lack of immediacy

There are paranormal occurrences, but somehow, such instances feel devoid of magic. The hidden worlds in the film aren't wondrously weird; they're just barely explained oddities whose mythologies have been streamlined for accessibility.

"Day Watch" careens out of control occasionally, because it doesn't establish coherence early on. Half the time, you're wondering what the heck's going on.

KONSTANTIN Khabensky in "Day Watch"

NIRVANA
NEVERMIND

SPENCER ELDEN: "It's kind of creepy." And he wasn't paid, either.

Nirvana's 'Nevermind' baby feels like a porn star

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—NEARLY TWO DECADES after becoming the music world's most famous naked swimming baby, California high school student Spencer Elden says he feels like a porn star.

The 17-year-old Los Angeles teenager was the centerpiece of one of the most iconic record sleeves of all time in 1991, when a photo of him swimming underwater graced the cover of Nirvana's hit album "Nevermind."

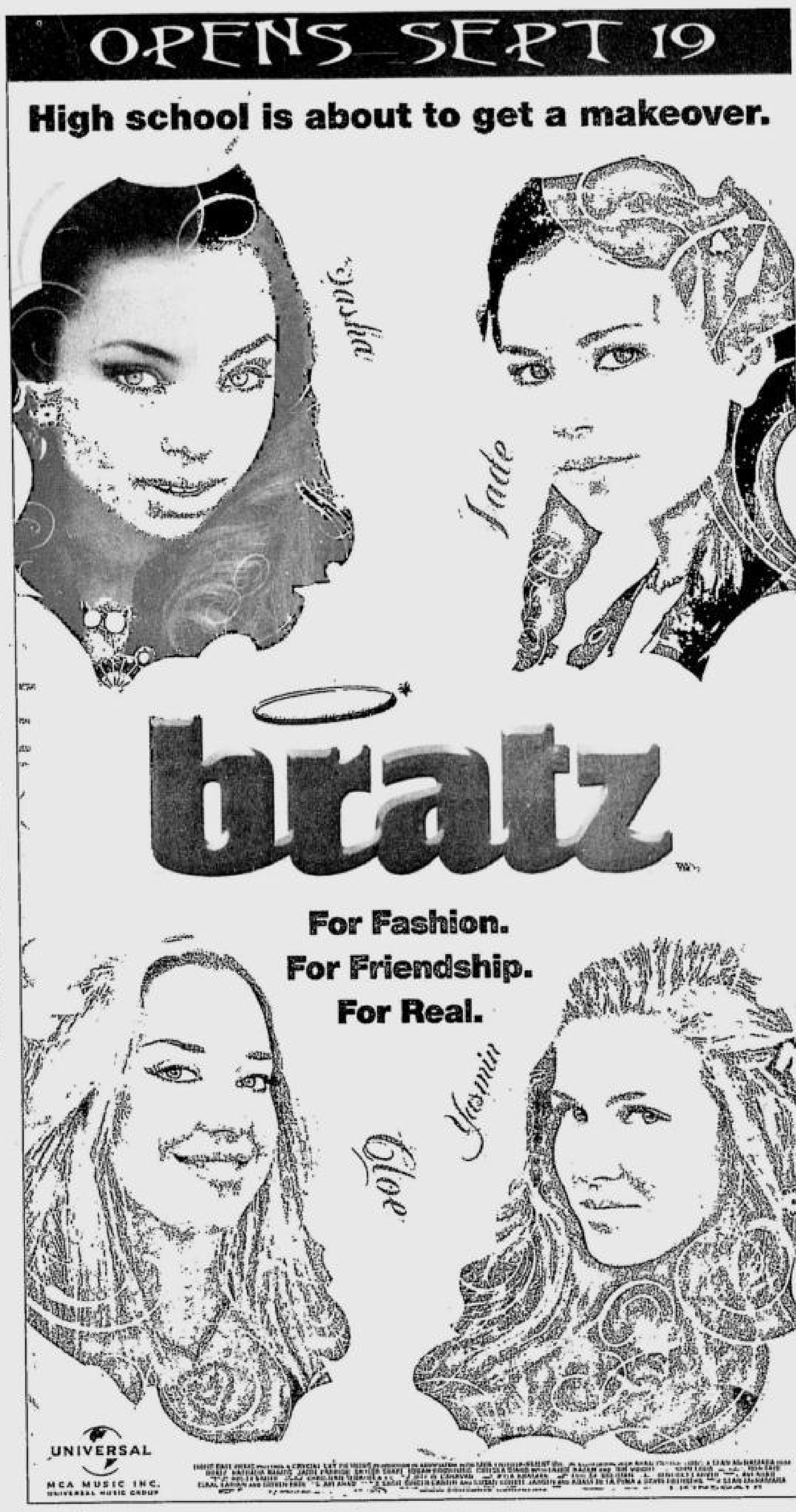
But Elden admitted in an interview with MTV.com that his small role in music history has given him mixed feelings.

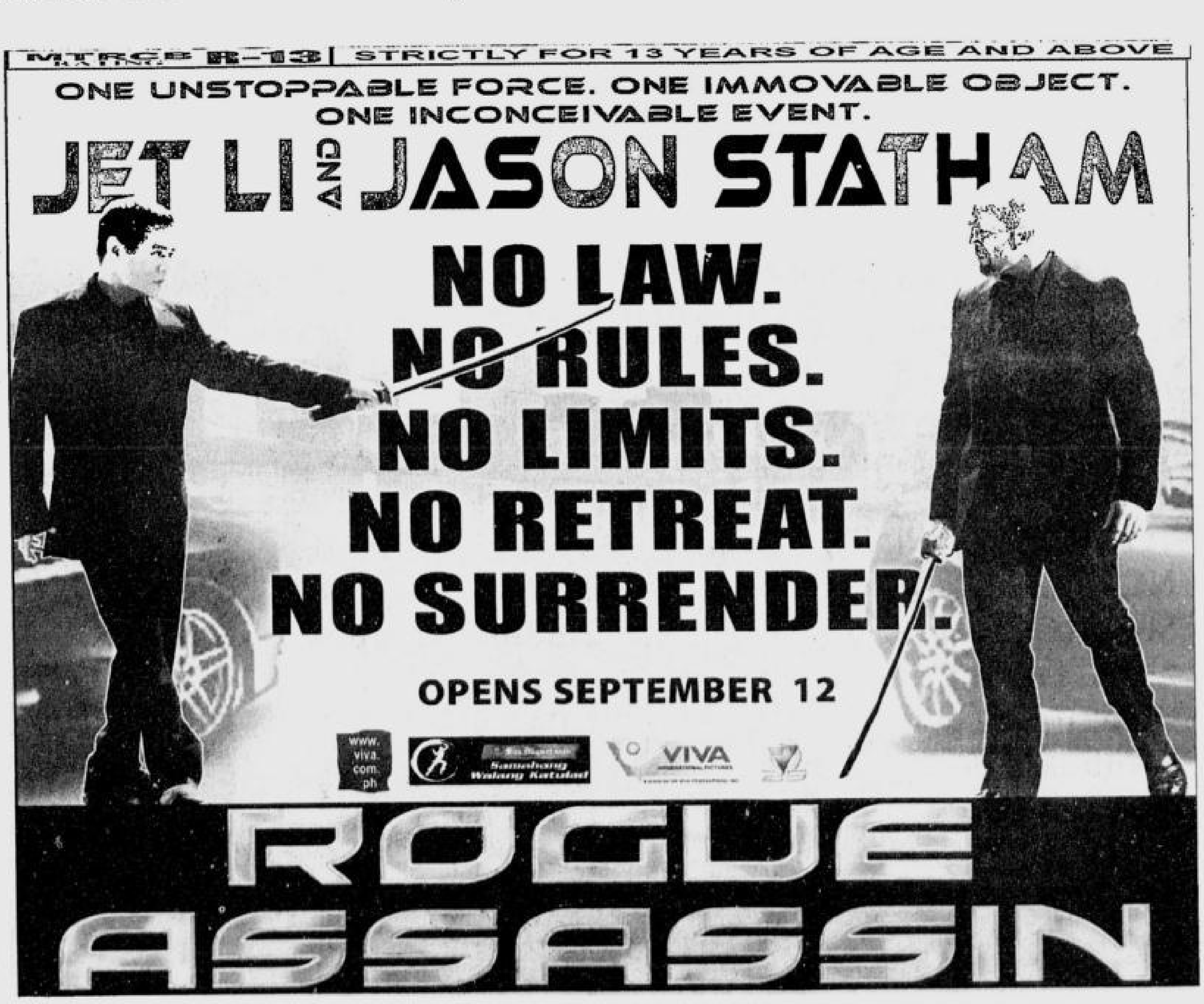
"It's kind of creepy that that many people have seen me naked," Elden said. "I feel like I'm the world's biggest porn star."

"Nevermind" became a huge success for Seattle-based grunge-rock band Nirvana, whose lead singer Kurt Cobain committed suicide in 1994. The album sold over 10 million copies in the US alone.

While Elden has never seen a penny of royalties, he continues to make money from media requests while attending school and working part-time in a juice bar.

"It's kind of cool, knowing I've been on an album cover, but I feel pretty normal about it because growing up, I've always known I was the Nirvana baby," he said. *AFP*

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GMA

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OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

Mega Manila Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

	Jan-Jun 2007	Jul-Aug, 2007
GMA	17.1%	18.0% ⬆
ABS-CBN		9[illegible]
Diff (GMA-ABS)	2.6	3.1 ⬆

Top Weekday Primetime Shows* Telebabad

Show	Rating
Mga Mata ni Anghelita	33.1
Lupin	33.2
Marimar	34.7
Kapamilya Deal or No Deal	[illegible]7.5
Impostora	31.9
JuMong (Mon-Thu)	27.0
JuMong (Fri)	28.9

Top Early Evening Newscast*

24 Oras 32.4

Top Weekday Daytime Shows* (Variety)

Eat Bulaga 22.8

Top Weekday Daytime Shows* (Talk)

SIS 13.9

Boy [illegible]

Top Weekend Daytime Shows* (Showbiz Talk show)

StarTalk 17.3

Top Weekend Evening Shows* (Public Affairs)

Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho 29.6

Top Weekend Daytime Shows* (Musical/Variety)

SOP 16.7

Top Weekend Evening Shows* (Talk)

Mel & Joey 24.6

Top Weekend Evening Shows* (Comedy)

Bitoy's Funniest Videos 32.2

[illegible] Media Research Phils., Inc. (Arianna)
[illegible] 2007 (Aug. 26-31 based on overnight ratings)

Ikinagagalak din naming ibahagi sa inyo na ayon sa TNS 2006 Establishment Survey, sa NCR at Suburbs kung nasaan ang higit sa kalahating total viewers sa buong bansa, mas marami po ang nakatutok sa GMA.

TNS 2006 SURVEY

Area	Total TV Homes	% To Total TV Homes
TOTAL PHILIPPINES	12,915	100.0
NCR	**3,924**	**30.4**
Suburbs	**2,628**	**20.3**
North Luzon	935	7.2
Central Luzon	1,041	8.1
South Luzon	1,066	8.3
Visayas	1,643	12.7
Mindanao	1,678	13.0

ENTERTAINMENT

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TERRENCE Howard and Richard Gere star in the out-of-competition entry, "The Hunting Party."

KEIRA Knightley and James McAvoy relax by Venice's famed canal waterway. Their film, "Atonement," opened the festival to good reception.

PHOTOS BY RUBEN V NEPALES

A hectic Venetian adventure

...chats and parties with Johnny Depp, Charlize Theron, Keira Knightley and many more

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

VENICE, ITALY—AFTER BEING HERE FOR over a week, we've realized that we can't gauge how the audience really likes a film by the applause at the end of each film's official screening.

With the main cast and key behind-the-scenes talents usually in attendance at the center of the balcony section of the Palazzo del Cinema (and they did stay until the end credits), the viewers always stood up and clapped at these gala screenings. The ovation usually lasted for several minutes.

* * *

We're sharing exclusive photos of our hectic, memorable days in the film festival that probably has the most gorgeous setting.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

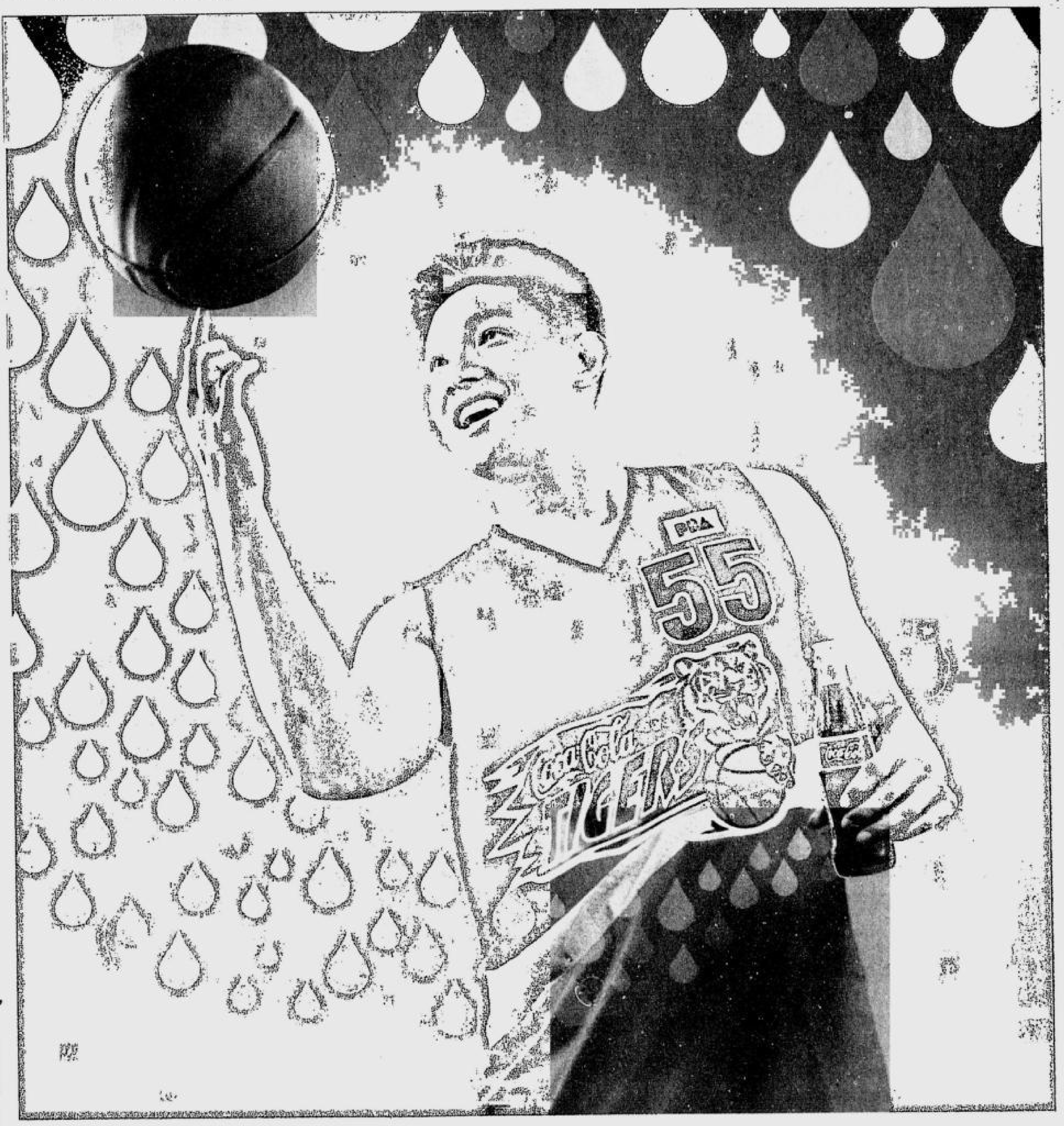
More photos on G3

TANG Wei and Ang Lee

TONY Leung, star of Ang Lee's "Caution, Lust."

JOE Wright, director of "Atonement."

COLIN Farrell talks to the press about working with Woody Allen.



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Alex Cabagnot
Basketball Playe and Coach

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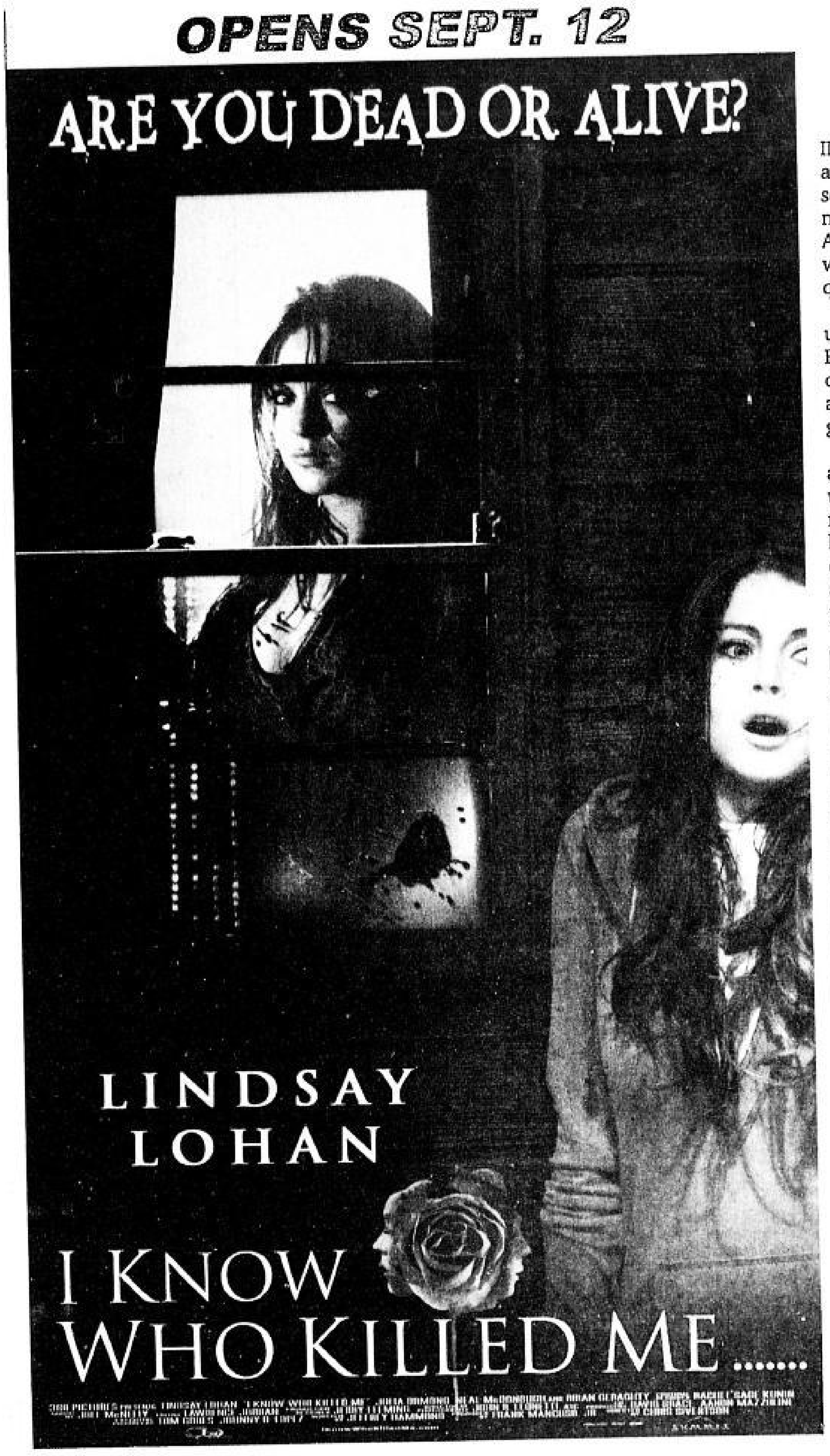

OPENS SEPT. 12
ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?
LINDSAY LOHAN
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME.......

New filmmakers have stopped trying to be Brocka or Bernal

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN THE 1970s AND '80s, **LINO BROCKA** and **Ishmael Bernal** distinguished themselves by making some of the best Filipino movies that won awards here and abroad. After their untimely demise, their absence was felt in the diminished quality of subsequent local productions.

Some ambitious filmmakers set themselves up as "heirs" to the "thrones" of Bernal and Brocka, but their work was clearly inferior and compromised, and failed to convince film buffs about the legitimacy of their claim to the late great directors' cinematic lineage.

Flash forward to 2007, and we still don't see any movie director on the horizon who can take up from where Lino and Ishmael left off. The mainstream film industry's decade-long slump has made quality filmmaking an even more quixotic endeavor than ever, so fewer significant and exceptional mainstream features are being produced. Even the derided Brocka and Bernal wannabes have focused on making frankly commercial movies.

> Many are called, few are truly chosen

Fact is, the best film work in these parts is being done by the new breed of indie digital filmmakers, who have been producing scores of features on very modest budgets—but with a whole lot of talent and passion.

Interestingly, even these new filmmakers have generally stopped comparing themselves with Brocka and Bernal. Instead, they're looking beyond what their seniors have done, correctly believing that they were good for their time, but not necessarily for the New Millennium.

We think this is a positive development, because it doesn't limit the future to imitating or emulating the past—even the best aspects of the past. It also liberates today's filmmakers from working under the shadows of past film masters, and being inordinately influenced by them.

Instead of wasting their time that way, they can more productively use it to figure out what *they* have to communicate in *their* own way, and just go ahead and do it.

On the other hand, there's something that can be said for setting high standards and role models, especially for the young who haven't gotten it all together yet—as long as they don't end up slavishly or too cleverly imitating those role models' work.

So, we like it when new filmmakers say they're thinking "beyond Brocka and Bernal," but we wish that they won't forget what made those two National Artists film masters.

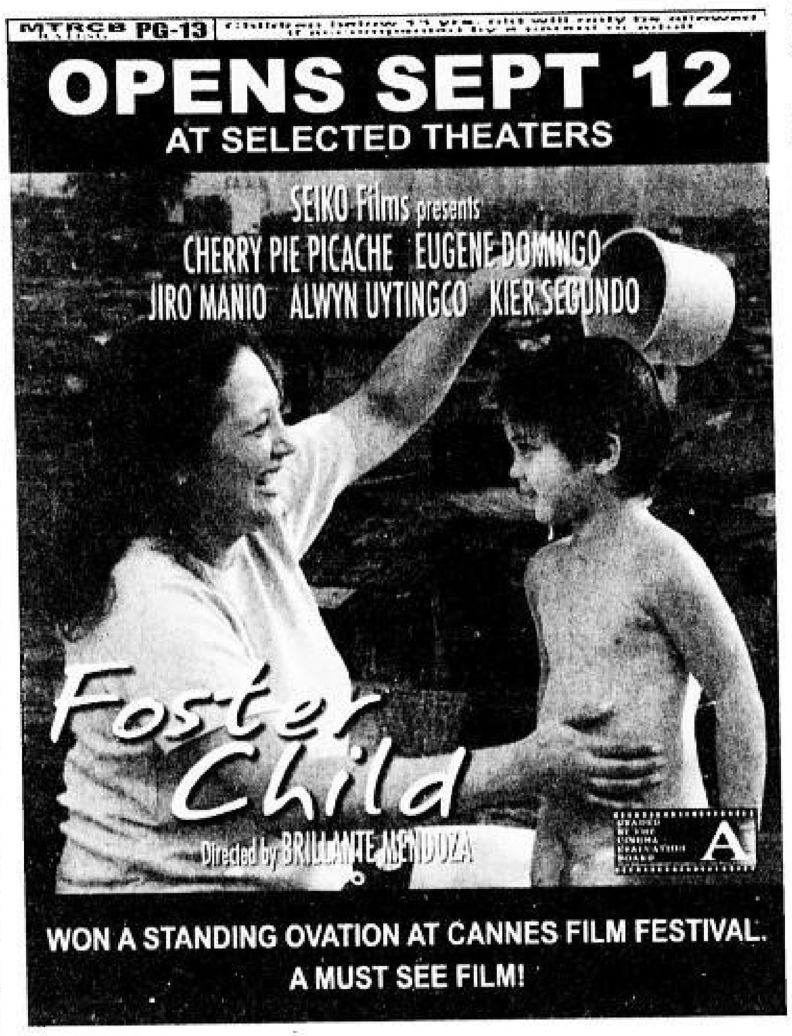
When Brocka and Bernal were making movies, there were scores of other film directors also striving to make their mark. But, due to many factors (relative talent, differing motivations, less principled or disciplined work ethic, etc.), many of them ended up as also-rans.

New filmmakers should remind themselves that the same situation obtains today: Many are called, but few are truly chosen.

Meaning, it isn't enough to be new and passionate, you still need to have vivid, empathetic film stories to tell, know how to use the technology well, and have the right reasons for doing so.

In the final analysis, since film is a mass medium, you should use yourself and your experiences to serve the public.

That's the bottom line: If you're in movies primarily for yourself, you'll probably end up second-best. But if, like Bernal and Brocka, you're in it to entertain and illuminate, you could end up on the right side of greatness.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GREENBELT 1	DAYWATCH	NANCY DREW					
GREENBELT 3	THX NANCY DREW GUARANTEED SEATS	THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS	EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS	DAYWATCH GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX DISTURBIA	NANCY DREW	DAYWATCH	THE INVASION	SKINWALKERS		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	PAN'S LABYRINTH	PLANET TERROR	RISE	THE INVASION			
MARKET! MARKET!	CHOPSUEY	SKINWALKERS	NANCY DREW	DISTURBIA	DAYWATCH		
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AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

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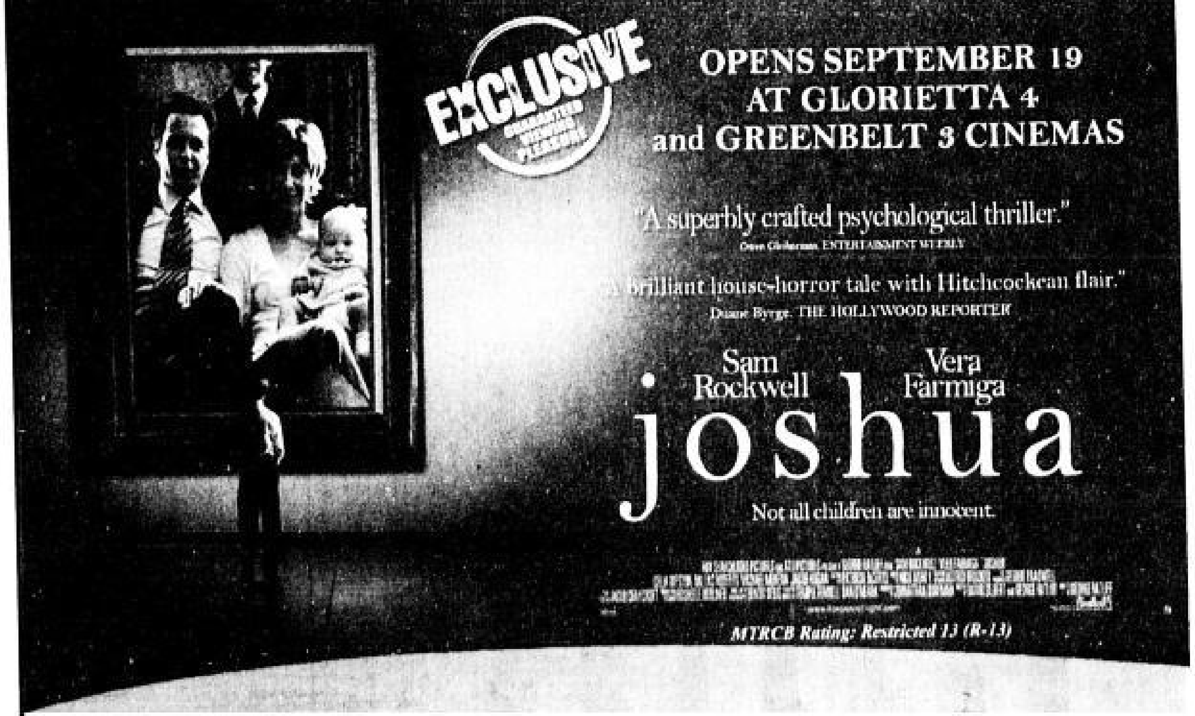
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Overseas Korean Traders Association Exhibit September 7 to 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 12, 2007 at GB 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt OnStage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2


EXCLUSIVE
OPENS SEPTEMBER 19
AT GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
"A brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Tim Burton receives Golden Lion from pal Johnny Depp

JOHNNY Depp and Tim Burton at the Cipriani Hotel before they faced screaming fans and red carpet paparazzi at the Palazzo del Cinema. RUBEN V. NEPALES

VENICE, ITALY—US DIRECTOR Tim Burton, master of the macabre, became the youngest recipient of the Golden Lion for career achievement at the Venice film festival on Wednesday.

"This is the most amazing experience," the 49-year-old said, adding that the Venice festival has "always been about movies, not business," and that "it's always had a special place in my heart."

Quipped the creator of "Beetlejuice" (1988), "Edward Scissorhands" (1990) and "Sleepy Hollow" (1999): "I'm older than I seem."

Burton's frequent collaborator Johnny Depp bestowed the award. "He is a rare breed in today's cinema," Depp said. "He is a true original—a true artist. He's my favorite director and friend."

The audience was treated to the first eight minutes of Burton's next creation, a film version of the Stephen Sondheim musical "Sweeney Todd," a Broadway hit in 1979 that enjoyed a revival in Britain in 2004.

Depp stars with Helena Bonham Carter in the story of the legendary London barber who murdered his customers by slitting their throats.

Burton, who created the 2005 remake of the fantasy adventure "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" based on the classic Roald Dahl book, scored his first box office hit in 1985 with "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure." *AFP*

A hectic Venetian adventure

From page G1

WOODY Allen being interviewed by journalists, including the columnist, right, at Hotel Des Bains. PHOTO BY MUNAWAR HOSAIN

THE GREAT actress, Vanessa Redgrave, who also stars in "Atonement." PHOTOS BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

HEATH Ledger looking dandy in Venice.

EWAN McGregor says he was in awe of his "Cassandra's Dream" director: "Sometimes I still found myself pointing at him on the set and saying, 'That's Woody Allen!'"

ADAMSANDLER
KEVINJAMES

Chuck has just found the perfect girl.
Too bad he's agreed to marry his best friend

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 19

MTRCB R-13

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NATIONAL FILM LITERACY PROGRAM
presents
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COMMEMORATIVE FILM LECTURES
on the
110th YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CINEMA
IN THE PHILIPPINES (1897-2007)
and the
90th YEAR OF PHILIPPINE CINEMA
(1917-2007)

Saturday Program Series
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Oct. 6, "Beginnings of Native Cinema"

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Due to a limited engagement at the Mowelfund Film Institute, these lectures and film screenings may be booked by schools and universities within Metro-Manila and provincial venues. Email us at nadeocampo@yahoo.com.ph

Author and Filmmaker
Nick Deocampo

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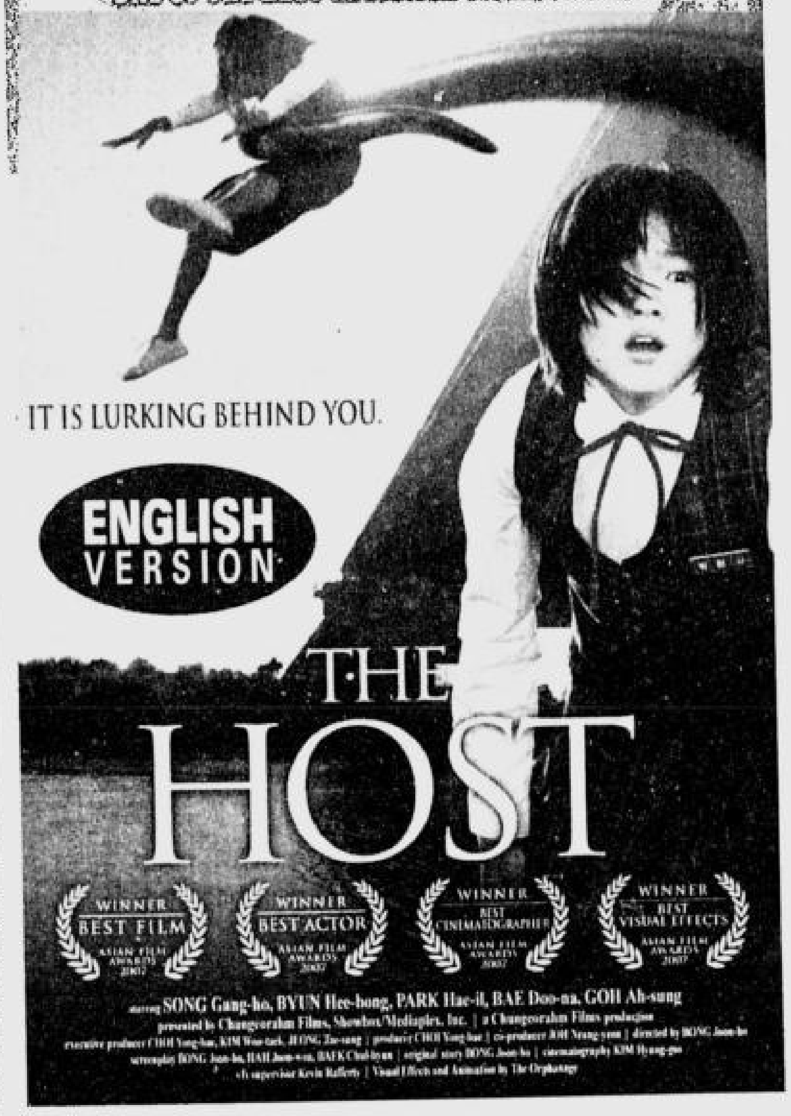
ONE OF THE BEST REVIEWED FILMS IN 2007.



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WINNER BEST ACTOR ASIAN FILM AWARDS 2007
WINNER BEST CINEMATOGRAPHER ASIAN FILM AWARDS 2007
WINNER BEST VISUAL EFFECTS ASIAN FILM AWARDS 2007
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AT GLORIETTA 4
CINEMAS

"PERFECT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT."
-Shawn Edwards, FOX TV

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ICE CUBE
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MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
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NOW SHOWING
SKINWALKERS

Another Thalia remake and a leading man called Ana

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

RUSHES SUNDAY

AND YOU THOUGHT GMA 7's "MARImar" remake took the cake?

Rival station ABS-CBN is said to be cooking up a Filipino version of another Mexican telenovela starring Thalia, "Rosalinda." Taking over Thalia's role is **Angel Locsin**, who purportedly declined the lead role on "Marimar." According to the grapevine, Angel's love interest on the new soap is **Piolo Pascual**. Alas, this is being denied by an ABS-CBN insider, who says the new soap starring Angel and Piolo is going to be "Taong Lobo."

More on Angel-Piolo

Star Cinema is reportedly rethinking its planned Angel-Piolo movie for Valentine's because of the actress' supposed contractual obligations with Regal. Star Cinema isn't risking a TRO, says our spy. But another informant insists Star Cinema stands on solid ground, and that the company has a team of legal experts behind it.

Casting rigodon

Originally, **Dingdong Dantes** was eyed to co-star with **Richard Gutierrez** in the Reality-GMA Films thriller "Dagaw." Then the role went to **Ryan Agoncillo**, who was excited at the prospect of working with director **Chito Roño**. However, Ryan eventually begged off because his shoot for "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo," a Metro Manila Film Festival entry, had already begun. **Marvin Agustin** may take over.

Desperately seeking Insiang's mom

Gina Pareño was offered to reprise Mona Lisa's mother role in the second staging of "Insiang" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. But the actress was unavailable, as she is currently juggling "Sakal" and the Kapamilya soap "Ysabella." A CCP exec asked Rushes for suggestions. Why not **Hilda Koronel**, the original "Insiang" in **Lino Brocka**'s internationally acclaimed 1976 film, we said. Other names on our wish list: **Elizabeth Oropesa**, **Daria Ramirez**, **Cherrie Gil** and **Amy Austria**. Stage actress **Mailes Canapi** finally landed the role. The play starts next month.

A man called Ana

This leading man is called ANA by fans of his perennial partner—and not because of his questionable gender. So, why? When told that his next movie would be with the same leading lady, the guy was overheard saying, "*AY*, NOT AGAIN!"

Next Dyesebel

Rhian Ramos is sporting a delicious tan, and tongues are wagging: Is it the result of a secret training for GMA 7's forthcoming mermaid series, "Dyesebel"? No official word on this one yet.

Why she doesn't smile

NEW YORK— There is a reason that **Mary-Kate Olsen** looks so depressed in her photos splashed across the tabloids.

"I don't want my picture taken," the 21-year-old actress says. "The only time I think it's OK is at a red-carpet event or a photo shoot. Every time I see paparazzi, I cover my face and I'm just the mean person who doesn't smile." *AP*

Endorsers galore

If you know of any other product with more endorsers than the current line of Adidas sportswear, e-mail us.

This list has more than 20 names in it: Andi 9, Mo Twister, Mojo; Angel Aquino, **Bianca King**, **Chesca Garcia**, **Iya Villania**, **Nancy Castiliogne**; **Jay-R**, **Kris Lawrence**, **Marco Alcaraz**, **Patrick Garcia**, Ryan Agoncillo. Plus the groups All Stars, world hip hop champs; Spongecola's **Yael Yuzon**, **Gosh Dilay**, **Chris Cantada**, **Erwin Armovit**; and Up Dharma Down's **Armi Millare**, **Carlos Tañada**, **Ean Mayor** and **Paul Yap**. Whew.

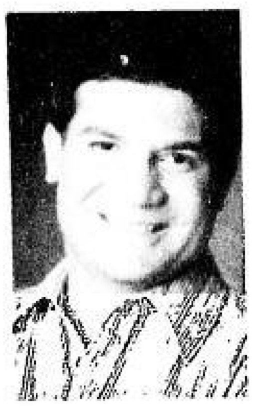
* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- **Camille Prats**, *buntis*?
- Camille, *buntis daw; doktor ang tatay?*
- **Kim Chiu**: *"Gusto kong maramdaman yung matagal akong liligawan."*
- Kim *umamin sa relasyon nila ni* **Gerald Anderson**. (*Ang tagal na ligawan no'n a.*)

KC: Free to marry.



EDU: "Thanks."

- Kim *natikman na ni* Gerald. (*Ha?...*)
- *Bago kay* Gerald, *may ibang naka-una kay* Kim. (*Teka lang....*)
- Gerald *baka magsawa kay* Kim!
- Gerald *'di isnabero, malabo lang ang mata*. (Hehehe.)
- *Direk* **Lino Cayetano** still won't talk about **KC Concepcion**. (Afraid?)
- **Sharon**: If KC wants to get married tomorrow, fine with me. (Afraid.)
- *Oks lang kay* Sharon *kung hindi maging mayaman ang magiging mister ni* KC.
- Sharon, *magpapapayat para sa* next team-up *nila ni* Aga. (Or, *magpapataba uli si* Aga. Joke!)
- *Dahil marami nang kapalit*, **Mother Lily** *hinayaan nang 'lumipad' si* Angel *sa* Star Cinema. (Might as well.)

CAMILLE: Is she?

And the winner is...

- **Willie Revillame** *nagpakumbaba kay* **Joey de Leon**.
- "Joey, I'm sorry."—Willie
- Joey, *'di type makipagbati kay* Willie.
- **Lolit Solis**: *"Ako na mismo ang nagsasabing 'wag makipagbati si* Joey *kay* Willie.
- Lolit: *Nag-sorry na rin lang si* Willie, Joey *mukhang tatahimik para 'di lumala ang usapan.*
- ABS-CBN, *pabago-bago ang* statements *sa* 'Wilyonaryo'!
- *Paliwanag ng Dos, kinontra ni* Willie.
- Willie *'di sinipot ang* 'Wowowee'.
- Joey says Willie 'used' him.
- Staff *na pumalpak, pinasisibak ni* Willie!
- Joey de Leon, *gagong kuwelang may lalim na jologs na sosyal.*

(*Ay, wala palang* winner *dito*.)

Change of heart

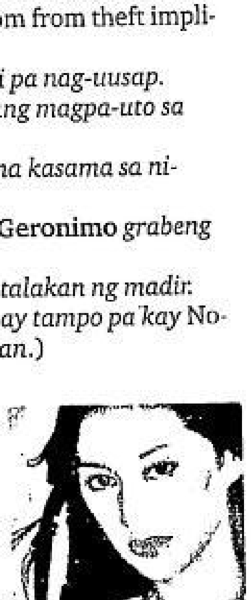
- **Joey Marquez** *tuloy ang hosting kahit may* graft case. (Only in the Philippines.)
- *Kahit may* **Mariel Rodriguez** *na*...**Luis Manzano** *naakit kay* Angel Locsin.
- Image *ni* Angel *pinababango ng Dos.*
- Sharon-Gabby movie *di papayagang matuloy*. (*Payag kami a.*)
- **Meryll**, **Bernard** *nagkabalikan dahil sa* baby.
- No reconciliation for Bernard, Meryll. (*Ano ba talaga?*)
- Meryll, *'di kailangan ng tulong ni* Bernard.

WILLIE: "Sorry."

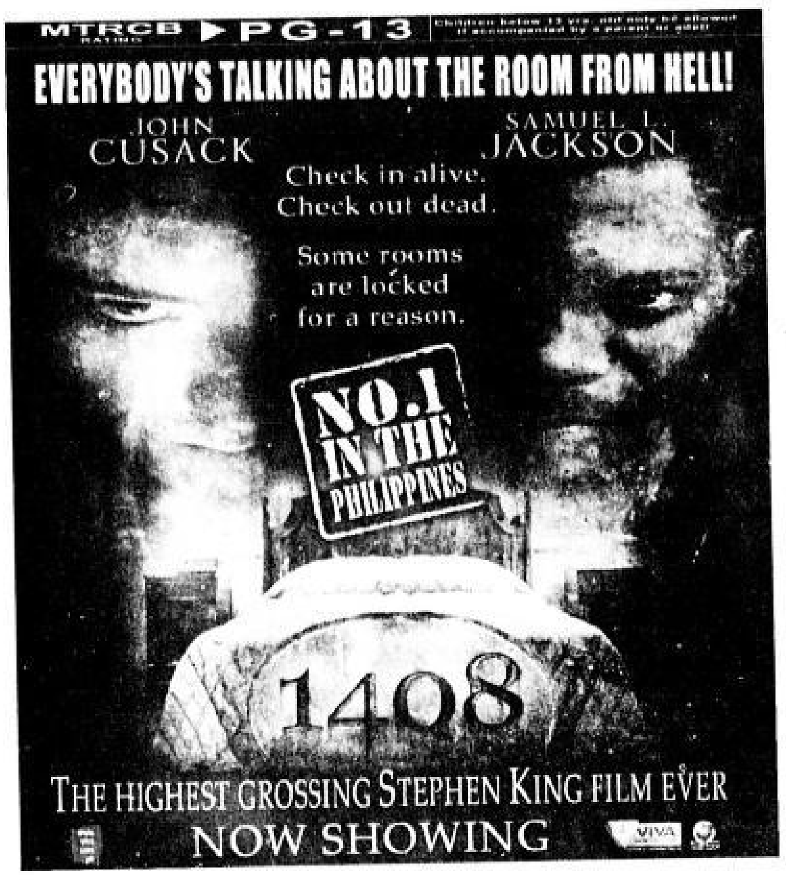
- Willie *natuwa sa manugang;* Bernard *sasagutin ang gastusin sa pagpapabinyag sa anak.*
- **Edu Manzano** *'di takot ma-*overexpose.
- Edu: Thank you for respecting my love life.
- *Bagong* game show *ng Dos, nasulot ni* Edu *kay* **Toni Gonzaga**. (*'Buti na lang.'*)
- Edu *papalitan ni Kris sa bagong* game show. (*Na naman?*)
- **Manny Pacquiao**, sitcom *ang unang* project *sa* GMA 7. (Good decision. *Di naman puwedeng drama o* horror.)
- **Jolina**, *walang makapareha!*
- **Albert Martinez**, *naawa kay* **Snooky**.
- Albert, *walang muwang sa paghihirap ni* Snooky. (*Kami rin.*)
- **Rosanna Roces**, *disiplinado't 'di na pasaway!* (*'Di siya 'yan!*)
- **Derek Ramsey**, *tinalbugan si* **Sam Milby**.
- **Sunshine Dizon**, allergic *sa aso.*
- **Jolo Revilla**, *karay-karay ang bagong* GF *sa set.*

Show biz moms

- *Matapos daw maglayas*..."Mommy, please *umuwi ka na!"*—**Rufa Mae Quinto**.
- Rufa Mae saves mom from theft implication.
- Rufa Mae *at ina, 'di pa nag-uusap.*
- Rufa Mae, *ayaw nang magpa-uto sa pamilya.*
- *Relos ni* Rufa Mae *na kasama sa ninakaw, hulugan.*
- Mommy *ni* **Sarah Geronimo** *grabeng higpit sa anak.*
- Sarah, *grabe kung talakan ng madir.*
- **Lotlot de Leon**, *may tampo pa kay* Nora Aunor. (*Lilipas din 'yan.*)
- **Pia Guanio**, *tatapatan ni* **Candace Guiron**. (Game!)
- **LJ Reyes** *handa nang magpa-sexy sa* FHM.
- 2 pendants *na regalo ni* **JC de Vera**, *santol ang ipinalit ni* **Yasmien Kurdi**.
- Yasmien *at* JC, *nahuling nagyayakapan at naghahalikan?* (*Matamis ang santol!*)
- Yasmien *gusto nang magka-anak.* (*Ang tamis-tamis!*)



RUFA Mae: "Mom..."



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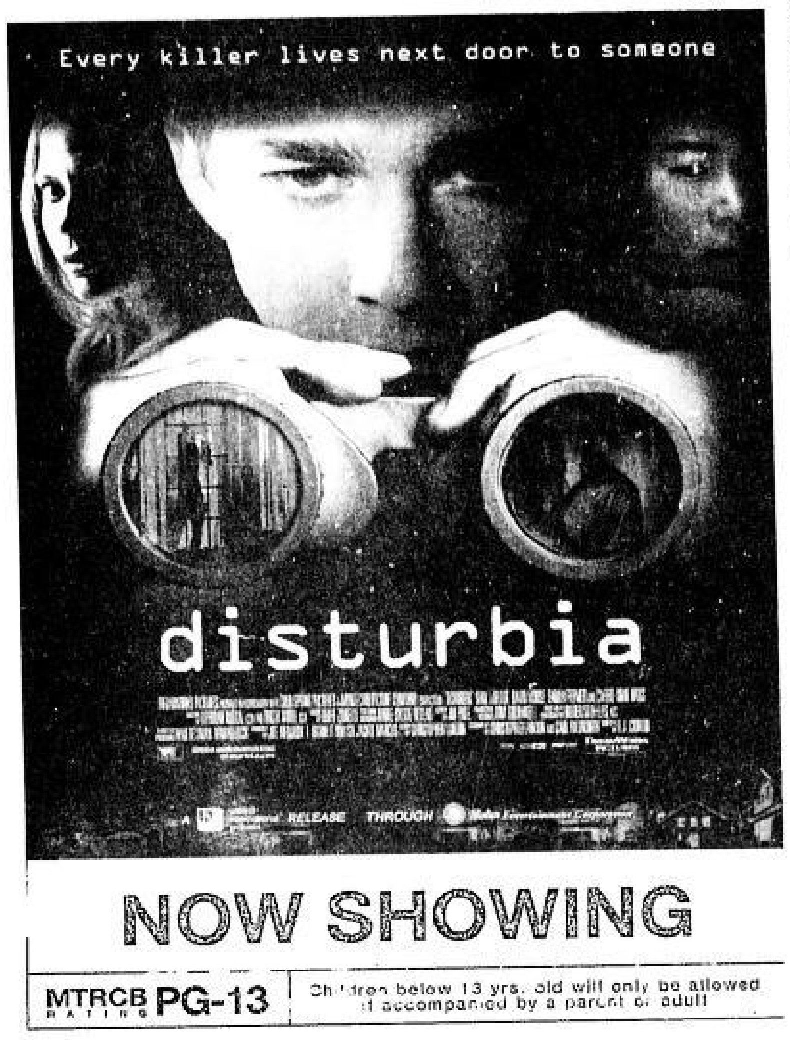

Every killer lives next door to someone
disturbia
NOW SHOWING
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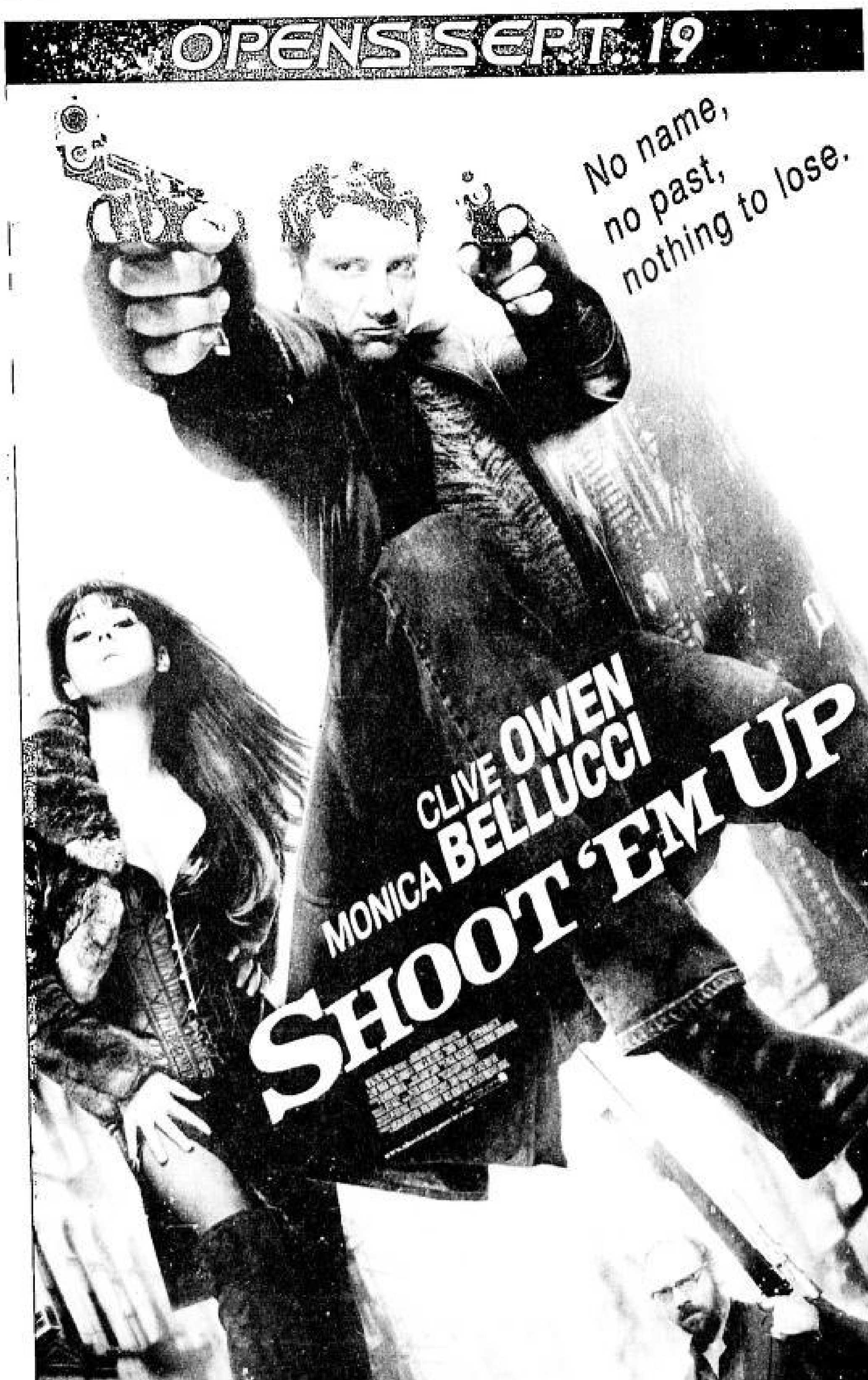
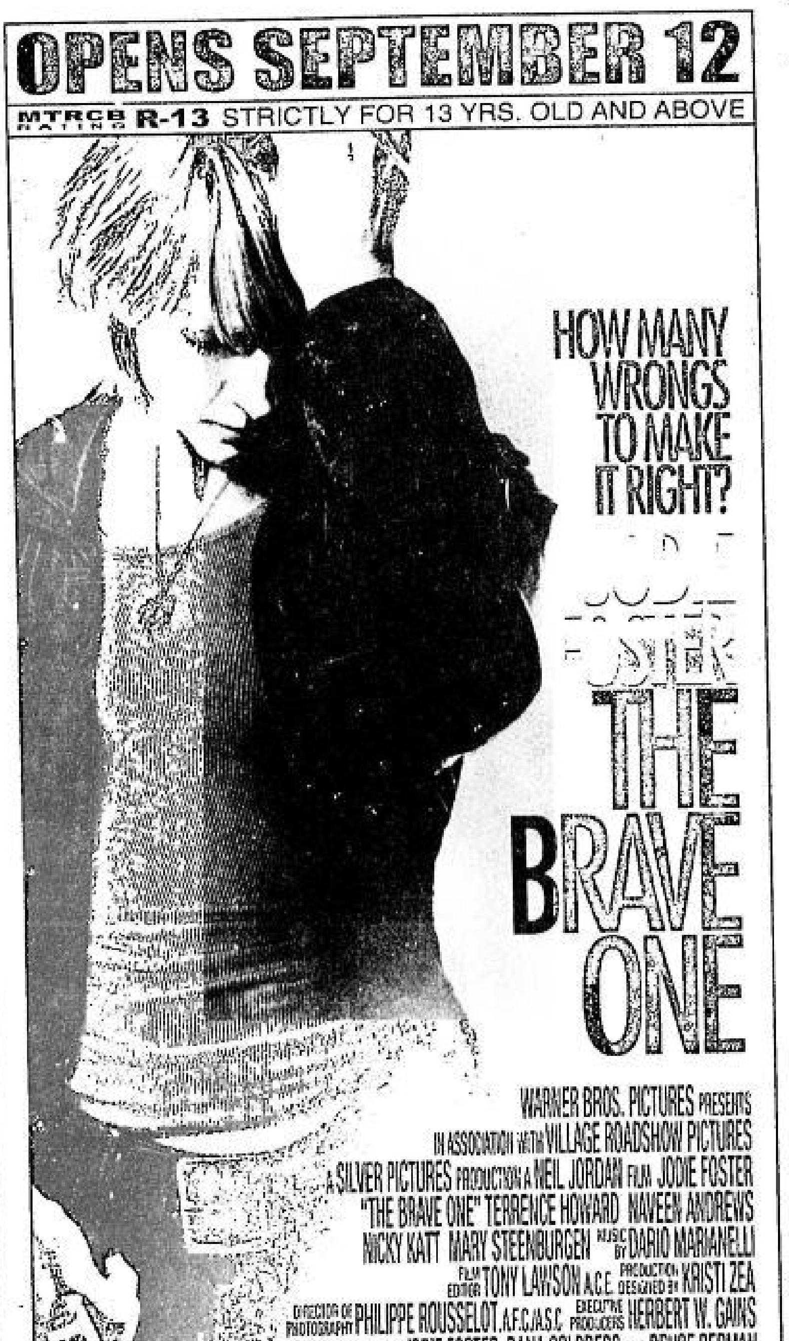


OPENS SEPT. 19
No name, no past, nothing to lose.
CLIVE OWEN
MONICA BELLUCCI
SHOOT 'EM UP



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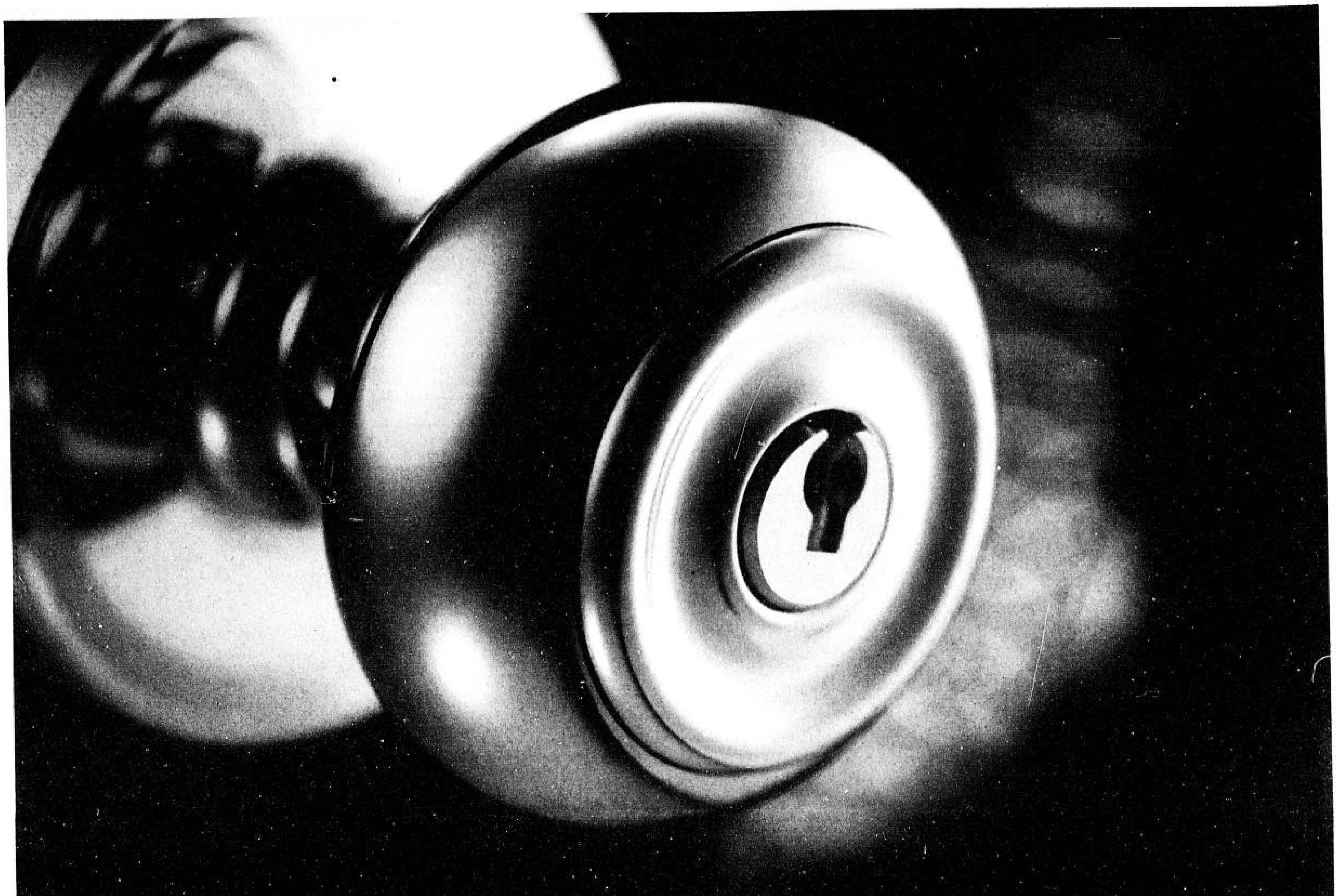

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- With extensive travel experience and preferably with an existing US and/or Europe visa
- With excellent communication, interpersonal and presentation skills

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- With at least 3 years experience in project development or related field
- With good communication, interpersonal and networking skills
- With excellent analytical skills and proficiency in negotiations

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- Graduate of HR Management, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course and preferably with masteral units
- With at least 10 years work experience in handling recruitment, compensation and benefits administration, labor and employee relations, training, and other HR-related functions
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills

CORPORATE TRAINING OFFICER
- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Psychology or Marketing and must belong to the top 10% of the class
- With at least 5 years training experience
- Preferably with experience in doing HR and OD
- With excellent written and oral communication, interpersonal and presentation skills

ACCOUNTANT
- Graduate of accountancy and must be licensed
- Preferably with at least 1 year work experience gained from a leading audit firm
- Fresh graduates may also apply

HR STAFF
- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Psychology or related course, preferably honor graduates
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Proficient in the use of MS Office applications
- Fresh graduates may also apply

PROJECT MANAGERS
- Graduate of Civil Engineering and must be licensed
- With at least 5 solid years of project management / construction experience in horizontal and/or vertical developments
- With excellent organizational, communication and interpersonal skills

CIVIL ENGINEERS
- Graduate of Civil Engineering and must be licensed
- Proficient in computer applications
- Must be flexible, hardworking, aggressive and a team player
- Fresh graduates may also apply. Honor graduates and/or board placers will have an advantage.

PROJECT ARCHITECT
- With a college degree in Architecture and licensed
- Those with post graduate degree or units in urban planning, urban design and landscape architecture or other related fields will have an advantage
- With at least 5 solid years of work experience, in a team leader capacity, in a planning, architectural firm or in a real estate company
- With construction supervision experience

JUNIOR ARCHITECTS
- With a college degree in Architecture and must be licensed
- With at least 2 solid years of work experience preferably from a planning, architectural firm or real estate company
- Proficient in Autocad and MS applications

FINANCE OFFICER
- Graduate of Finance / Accountancy or any business-related course from a top university, preferably with MBA or MBA units
- With at least 8 years related work experience, the last 3 of which is in a supervisory capacity. Those with previous work experience in a leading audit firm will have an advantage
- With strong ability to deal effectively with senior management
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skill

MARKETING STAFF
- Graduate of any business course and must belong to the top 10% of the graduating class
- With excellent communication, interpersonal and networking skills
- Must be aggressive, results-driven and a team player
- Fresh graduates may also apply

ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT STAFF
- Graduate of any business course and must belong to the top 10% of the graduating class
- Preferably with at least 1 year work experience in accounts management
- Fresh graduates may also apply

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(for ongoing and upcoming projects)

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- With at least 8-10 solid years of marketing experience
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With excellent leadership and interpersonal skills and a team player
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(qualifications same as above)

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CIVIL ENGINEER
ARCHITECT
MARKETING STAFF
ACCOUNTANT
ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT STAFF

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(Please indicate the position applied for in the "subject" of your e-mail.)

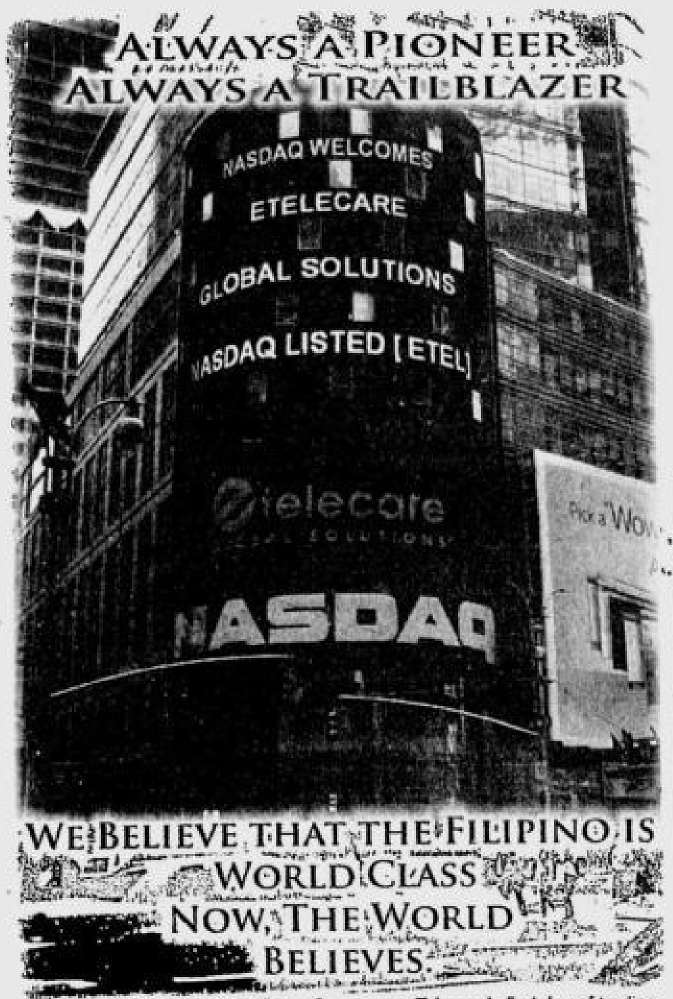

Photo taken at New York's Times Square on eTelecare's first day of trading. eTelecare is the first Philippine incorporated outsourcer to trade on the NASDAQ stock exchange.

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- Sourcing Specialist
- Recruiting Specialist
- Recruiting Associates (Davao)
- Senior Sales Training Specialist
- Language Trainers
- Technical Trainer
- Training Supervisor
- OD Senior Training Officer
- Workforce Management Specialists (Forecasting and Scheduling)
- Productivity Assurance Coordinators
- Resource Specialists
- Capacity Planning Specialist
- Team Leaders
- Quality Assurance Associates
- Compensation and Benefits Supervisor
- Human Resource Officer
- Human Resource Specialists
- Frontdesk Associate
- Technical Administrator

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Eastwood, Libis

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12/F PBCom Tower
Ayala Ave., Makati.

CEBU
G/F i2 Bldg.
Asiatown IT Park
Lahug, Cebu City

SHAW
Upper G/F Annex@Shaw
Shaw Blvd. cor. EDSA

ALABANG
G/F Plaz@ A Bldg.
Northgate Cyberzone
Filinvest Corporate City

DAVAO
C-1 Mezzanine Flr.
Apo View Hotel
Davao City

Text ETEL (space) PDI (space) Name, Landline Number & desired position, Send to: 2327(Globe Subscribers) 0917-8902327 (All Non-Globe Subscribers)

IRRI

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the oldest and largest international agricultural research institute in Asia. IRRI is an autonomous, nonprofit rice research and training organization with staff based in 15 countries in Asia and Africa. Our mission is to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers, and ensure that rice production is environmentally sustainable. We work closely with most rice-producing and consuming countries and their national agricultural research and extension systems as well as farming communities and a range of international, regional, and local organizations. In partnerships with these national systems, we conduct research and provide training and education for those helping rice farmers by disseminating information and proven, sustainable technologies. We are currently recruiting a

Senior Manager for Procurement and Materials Management Services

Job summary : Reporting to the Director for Management Services, the Senior Manager shall facilitate and manage the supply chain from proposal to disposal. He shall be responsible for managing procurement and material management functions to include forecasting, purchasing, delivery, storage, distribution, inventory, asset control and disposal of the Institute's expendable and non-expendable materials, supplies and properties.

Qualification requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Business or related discipline; a background in Science is an advantage; a Master's degree in Business Administration is preferred
- 8 – 10 years managing a staff in procurement, supply chain or related services for multinational organizations or international non-profit organizations
- high level of commitment to stakeholders, with strong customer focus, sense of urgency and results-orientation
- proven expertise in all aspects of procurement and material management (PMMS) functions, including working knowledge of tariff and customs laws, efficiency improvement tools such as Just-in-time (JIT) and application of Information Technology to PMMS
- excellent communication and negotiation skills plus the ability to establish and maintain effective networks and partnerships
- strong managerial leadership, strategic planning and skills in implementing change and quality service improvement
- unquestionable personal integrity and honesty

Interested candidates can access the complete job description by visiting the Institute's Website at **http://www.irri.org./jobs/national.asp**

Application: *Qualified applicants should send a letter of application, a comprehensive resume, transcript of records and names and contact details of three referees via email to* ***IRRIRecruitment@cgiar.org*** *or submit to:*

Senior Manager (2007-R-84)
Human Resource Services – National Staff
INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DAPO Box 7777 Metro Manila

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for assessment and interview.
IRRI is an equal opportunity organization and believes in gender & diversity.
IRRI therefore encourages qualified women professionals to apply.

*** Selection process will begin on 30 September 2007 and will continue until a suitable candidate is identified.**

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(2) AUTOCADD OPERATOR
(2) ESTIMATOR

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Project 2, Quezon City
922-1206 / 433-4670

ST. THERESE HOSPITAL IS IN NEED OF

(2) PHARMACISTS

Please contact ROSELLE or ANNIE at Tel. Nos. 643-7510, 643-7683 or 643-7684 local 801 and 808
(Mondays to Fridays)
St. Therese Hospital, C. Raymundo Ave.,
Maybunga, Pasig City

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS - OPTIMUMLINK, INC.

Optimumlink, Inc., a subsidiary of BMC Group of the U.S., is seeking a Director of Operations for its modern global support operation in Cebu City. Optimumlink provides a range of support services to BMC Group's international information management business including systems administration, software development, accounting and 24/7 customer support.

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the management, coordination and direction of all aspects of the operations
- Establish, monitor and manage plans, resources, and work assignments to achieve the mission of all departments
- Furnish a challenging, progressive work environment that provides for and encourages, personal career growth that continues to enhance the group's service capability
- Adopt and foster a team approach to completing assignments
- Provide staff development and personnel administration including performance and promotion reviews
- Provide regular status and activity reporting as required

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related field
- 10 years previous management experience in consultancy and information systems environment
- Demonstrated success as a manager in planning, organizing, and completing complex work
- Demonstrated maturity in working with people
- Skill to patiently and fluently express ideas, concepts, and reasoning
- Excellent people management skills, communication skills, team oriented, collaborative and flexible
- Some international travel may be necessary
- A high standard of written and spoken English

An attractive remuneration package commensurate with the responsibilities of this role will be offered to the successful candidate.

Please apply with CV and covering letter explaining your suitability to this position to:

Optimumlink, Inc.
Attn: Zenaida Jovellanos
401 Keppel Building
Cebu Business Park
Cebu City, Philippines 6000
Email: zjovell@bmcgroup.com
Phone: 032 - 415-8461

Metro Index Realty & Development Corporation

Accounting Assistant

- Must be a graduate of BS Accountancy
- Female 23-30 years old
- At least 3 years experience in General Accounting
- Knowledgeable in integrated accounting system

Treasury Assistant

- BS Accountancy graduates
- Minimum of 2 years work related experience.
- Knowledge of computerized accounting system preferred
- Preferably with previous working experience gained in a real estate company or related business

Project Engineer

- Must be a licensed male Civil Engineer
- With 3 years experience in site development and house construction
- Should possess strong leadership skills
- Must have good command over subordinate staff and sub-contractors
- Project Management Experience is preferred.

Sales Administrative Assistant

- Graduate of any 4 year degree course, preferably from reputable schools.
- At least 2 year experience in sales administration and/or coordination
- Experience in Sales Documentation and Report Preparation
- Good communication skills & Pleasing Personality

Marketing Assistant

- Fresh Graduates of Business courses from reputable schools are welcomed
- With at least 2 years experience, preferably in real estate firm or advertising agency
- Conceptualizes and implements marketing programs and events
- Prepares, delivers, and conducts presentations on behalf of company

*All applicants must be well-versed in MS Office Applications

Metro Index Realty & Development Corporation
#52 Thomas Street, Phase 3 Multinational Village, Parañaque City
For interested applicants, kindly email your resumé to Ms. Shelley Gurrobat (**stgurrobat@yahoo.com**)Tel No.: 6800-6059

Lycopodium (PHILIPPINES) LTD

INTERNATIONAL MINING ENGINEERING COMPANY
requires

LEAD ELECTRICAL DESIGN DRAFTSPERSON

Minimum 5 years at senior electrical design drafting experience. Must be skilled in the use of Microstation and / or Autocad. Mining experience an advantage.

SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEERS

(MECHANICAL / STRUCTURAL / CIVIL)

Minimum 5 years experience in all levels of project design, fluent in structural analysis, design load calculations, controlling and reporting equipment lists, equipment sizing and scheduling etc. Mining design and construction experience an advantage.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified personnel for the above positions for the Makati-based office. All applicants must be fluent in written and oral English.

Applications for the positions should include details of education and previous work experience and professional references.

Salary package and benefits are competitive. Please send all applications to **manila@lycopodium.com.au** referring to the titles above.

Applications must be received by COB on Friday, 14th September 2007.

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Unit 2, 4/F Bloomingdale Plaza
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(near PAG-IBIG/in front of SSS)

India follows RP in boosting conditions of HSWs abroad

FOLLOWING THE lead of the Philippines, India has recently imposed a strict and mandatory $400 monthly salary covering its more than 200,000 foreign household workers in 18 countries overseas.

Brion cited the case of India which has followed suit in setting the minimum monthly salary of women immigrants to US$400, and increasing the age restriction at 30 years old. The new India policy takes effect September 1, 2007.

The POEA Governing Board approved last year a series of resolutions defining policy reforms that seek to improve the lot of household workers. The new policies which took effect December 16, 2006, include upgrading of skills of the workers, orientation course on country-specific culture and language, protective mechanisms at the job sites, obliging employers to shoulder the cost of deploying the domestic helper, increasing the age limit to 23 years old, and increasing the minimum salary to a level commensurate to their acquired competencies.

In following our initiative, Brion said the Indian government may have recognized that the competition now in the deployment of workers is the protection of women.

But India even went further. Aside from the new age and wage policy, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs require that the employment contract should be between the worker and the employer directly and not with the recruiting agent. The contract should also include a pre-paid mobile facility to be provided by the employer to every household service worker.

Under the new Indian policy, every foreign employer directly recruiting an Indian woman emigrant must deposit a security of US $ 2500 in the form of bank guarantee with the Indian Mission.

There are also reports that Indonesia is requiring its domestic helpers to undergo a three-month training course prior to taking up employment abroad.

Brion added that the decrease in the number of household workers deployed should be viewed positively as the policy reform is generating good results despite the decline.

Brion said more Filipino workers are now eyeing jobs that offer higher salary and more friendly working environment.

Baldoz said the percentage share of professional and technical workers group went up by 2 percentage points from 12.4% in first half of 2006 to14.4% for the same period in 2007. This group of high end skills consisting of professional, technical and highly skilled workers accounted for 73 % of the total new hires, while low- end skills only constituted 27 %.

Brion said large workers' groups and industry associations have also thrown its support for the policy reforms.

Rene Cristobal, president of Association for Professionalism in Overseas Employment, Inc. (ASPROE) said his group is not at all saddened by the decrease in the number of domestic helpers deployed.

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- Preferably graduates of any four-year course
- With excellent communication skills in English
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- Accent and Conversational English (ACE) Trainers
- Accent and Conversational English (ACE) Coaches
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- Training Supervisor
- Training Coordinator
- Technical Trainer
- Payroll Specialists
- Senior Team Leader
- Business Communication Specialist
- Operations Support Center (OSC) Specialist
- Site Nurses

Pasay City Delivery Center

Technical Support/Customer Service Associates

- College/Associate Graduates or finished at least two years of college
- With excellent communication skills in English
- Must have strong comprehension and listening skills

Leadership and Business Support Openings

- Accent and Conversational English (ACE) Trainers
- Accent and Conversational English (ACE) Coaches
- Customer Satisfaction Manager- Green Belt certified, preferably Black Belt in Six Sigma
- Human Resources Coordinator
- Human Resources Assistant
- Recruitment Assistant (Project-based)

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- Graduate of a four-year course
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- Not more than 28 years old
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application letter and resume
- Copy of academic transcript or certificate of true grades
- One 2X2 color photo

(Only applicants with academic transcript or certificate of true grades will be interviewed.)

METRO MANILA AND LUZON APPLICANTS
Interview schedule for WALK-IN applicants
10, 11, 12 September 2007: 8 AM to 3 PM
Rodolfo I. Gracia Training Center
Buencamino Street, Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
(Please refer to location map of GXI office at httpl/:www.gxilocation.i8.com)

FOR INTERVIEW BY APPOINTMENT, PLEASE SEND APPLICATION TO
GX INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Rodolfo I. Gracia Training, Research and
Development Center, Buencamino Street
Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or by email to gxhrd@yahoo.com

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO APPLICANTS
Interview schedule for WALK-IN applicants:
10-11 September 2007: 8 AM to 3 PM
at the following branch offices:

Davao
Greenheights Convention Center
2F Lui Enterprises Bldg, Diversion Road
Bo. Tigatto, Buhangin District, Davao City

Cagayan de Oro
Door 3, 2F A&M Building, Tomas Saco
1st Street Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City

Cebu
Room S, 2F Yracahad Building
A. C. Cortes St., Mandaue City

Bacolod
Door 5, AU & Sons Building
Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City

Iloilo
2F, Prudential Life Building, Ortiz St., Iloilo City

Tacloban
2F Engineer Elona Building
34 Independencia St., Tacloban City

FOR INTERVIEW BY APPOINTMENT, PLEASE SEND APPLICATION TO
GX INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Branch Office (see addresses above)
or by email to davao@gxionline.com
or gxhrd@yahoo.com

GX

Asia Pacific International (APi)
Medical and Dental Center, Inc.
2/F Northgate Center, Gov. Cuenco Ave., Kasambagan, Cebu City 6000
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APi 치과병원

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN
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ASIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (API) MEDICAL & DENTAL CENTER is a duly registered business establishment located at Cebu City. The company became the official Dental Clinic during the 12th **ASEAN SUMMIT** held in Cebu International Convention Center (CICC), Cebu City last January, 2007. The company offers the most advanced medical and dental services to the locals as well as to the foreign clienteles of the city.

API MDC offers compelling and rewarding professional career opportunities for all dental professionals, experienced dentists or to new graduates, who will join our strong team of friendly professionals committed to quality dental care.

Qualified candidates for the position will have a chance to undergo further advance training development and enhancement of skills in the field of their expertise overseas and at the same time they will receive above-average compensation with highly competitive benefits. We also provide room accommodation for employees who are not residents of Cebu.

ASSOCIATE DENTIST

- 20-40 yrs. Old, Male or Female
- Licensed Dentist
- Orthodontist / Surgeon is a plus
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral

RECEPTIONIST

- 20 – 27 yrs. Old, Female
- At least 5' 3" tall
- Nursing Graduate / Medical allied professional is a plus
- Computer Literate
- With pleasing personality
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral

Interested applicants may send their Application Letter, Resume with 2x2 picture, TOR, Certificates for qualification, Passport copy and NBI Clearance through registered mail, email, or fax to:

MS. MARIA C. LUCHESE
API GROUP MANAGER
2/F Northgate Center, Gov. Cuenco Ave
Kasambagan, Cebu City 6000, Philippines

Or Email to : api_mdc@yahoo.com
Fax # : (032) 231-4800

For more info please call (032) 231-9991 / 231-9992 and look for Ms. Janice Aton, Administrative Assistant or Ms. Marian Velayo, Assistant Officer of API GROUP.

PBSP
Philippine Business
for Social Progress

Business Empowering the Poor

In the face of poverty, we see endless opportunities for growth

We are among the country's leading corporate-led social development foundations. Through the years, our job has meant more than just its pay. If you believe that you can make a difference in other people's lives, we invite you to fill in the following positions in our USAID-funded Philippine Initiatives and Networking to Control Tuberculosis Program (TB LINC);

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY

The Tasks
The Deputy Chief of Party supports the Chief of Party (COP) in translating project strategies into effective operational actions. To fulfill this role, the DCOP is expected to provide technical leadership to the Component Management and Field Operations Group. The DCOP will coordinate and lead the development of project work plans. He/She will also assist the COP in tracking, coordinating and reporting information on project activities. The DCOP will liaise with principal policy and decision makers in national agencies and LGUs in support of policy and financing initiatives of the project. He/She will also report to USAID through both formal and informal debriefings, annual and semi-annual reports. The DCOP will also assist the Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in development of performance monitoring plan. In the absence of the Chief of Party, the DCOP acts as Chief of Party. This position is based in Manila.

The Qualifications

- Advanced degree in public health or related fields with strong background and training in management
- Minimum 10 years of experience in project management in a health or health international NGO or bilateral/multilateral organization
- Technical expertise in the field of TB control and other infectious diseases
- Good understanding of public health system in the Philippines
- Strong networking and visibility in the field of TB control in the Philippines
- Experience working with USAID and other donors preferred
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interface with government officials and international donors
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Email at a minimum
- Fluency in written and spoken English required

PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATIONS SPECIALIST

The Tasks
The project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluations Specialist (PPME) will be responsible for the development and management of the project monitoring and evaluation plan. He/She will work closely with USAID and project leadership to develop project performance indicators and track progress against these indicators. He/She will also develop tools to monitor project performance and train staff in their use. The PPME Specialist will coordinate the preparation and submission of project performance reports, including monthly, quarterly and annual reports as well as technical presentations and the final report. He/She will also ensure that all project deliverables are tracked, maintained in an electronic and hardcopy library in the Manila office, and submitted to USAID and the USAID Development Clearinghouse. The PPME Specialist will manage STTA and subcontracts related to monitoring and evaluation. He/She will also use monitoring and evaluation data to identify project implementation issues and facilitate formulation of strategies to address such issues. This position is based in Manila.

The Qualifications

- Advanced degree in management, public health, economics, or a related field.
- Minimum 7 years of experience in monitoring and evaluations, planning, reporting and communications
- Experience working with USAID and other donors preferred
- Experience working in health sector and knowledge of TB and other infectious diseases is an advantage
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interface with government officials and international donors
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Email at a minimum
- Fluency in written and spoken English required

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER

The Tasks
The Team Leader will be responsible for the design and implementation of the project's social mobilization and communication strategies to expand the DOTS strategy and improve behavior towards TB and DOTS. He/She will work closely with stakeholders including the Department of Health (National TB Program and National Health Promotion Program), TB organizations, TB patients' groups, the USAID Health Promotion Program, and USAID in designing communication interventions. The Team Leader will work collaboratively with the TBLINC Team to achieve objectives and coordinate with the Field Operations Group and Component Management Group in the implementation of social mobilization and communication activities. This position is based in Manila.

The Qualifications

- Advanced degree in communications, management, public health, or a related field
- Minimum 10 years of experience in health communications, community mobilization and management of health projects
- Experience working with USAID and other donors preferred
- Experience working in health sector and knowledge of TB and other infectious diseases is an advantage
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interface with government officials and international donors
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Email at a minimum
- Fluency in written and spoken English required

Please forward your resume and transcript of records on or before 30 September 2007 to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
Philippine Social Development Center, Magallanes cor. Real Sts., Intramuros, Manila
Tel.: 527-7741 to 51 ● Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph ● Website: www.pbsp.org.ph

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61 Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Phones: 426-3284 / 434-6466

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In the face of poverty, we see endless opportunities for growth

We are among the country's leading corporate-led social development foundations, Through the years, our job has meant more than just its pay. If you believe that you can make a difference in other people's lives, we invite you to fill in the following positions in our Foundation Affairs Unit:

SENIOR FOUNDATION AFFAIRS OFFICER

The Tasks
Consolidates individual plans of Communication Officers into an overall plan for the publicity group for recommendation to the Unit Manager for final approval. Provides overall supervision of communications support by ensuring adherence to quality standards, accuracy and integrity of publications, documentaries, speeches and exhibits. Ensures implementation of a system for archiving and directly supervises and manages the subcommittee of PR/HR.

The Qualifications
Interested applicants must hold a college degree in any course related to Communications. He/she must have at least 3 years relevant supervisory experience in a similar organization with working knowledge in communications work, print & visual production and program management. He/she must have excellent communication, writing & editing skills. Further, having a thorough comprehension of Corporate Citizenship and Social Development principles is a must.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER I
FOR MULTIMEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

The Tasks
Maintains the PBSP website, prepares write-ups and articles for the website and e-newsletter, coordinates with various stakeholders regarding web-related matters, handles special publications and special events, and assists the Luzon Regional Operations in the implementation of their communication plan.

The Qualifications
Interested applicants must hold a college degree in Communications, Journalism, Broadcast Communication, Advertising or any related field. He/she must have at least 1-year experience in the area of publications, web design & development with substantial knowledge in programming languages (i.e. Java, HTML) and understanding of social development. He/she must have excellent skills in web writing and the ability to relate well with stakeholders.

Please forward your resume and transcript of records to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
Philippine Social Development Center, Magallanes cor. Real Sts., Intramuros, Manila
Tel.: 527-7741 to 51 ● Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph ● Website: www.pbsp.org.ph

Associated Medical & Clinical Services, Inc.
3rd Floor Kalayaan Building, Corner Salcedo & Dela Rosa Streets,
Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call us 892-5906-08

REGISTERED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

- Must have an HIV and drug-testing proficiency
- Must be self-motivated, hardworking and service-oriented
- Must have supervisory skills
- Good communication skill

REGISTERED X-RAY TECHNICIANS

- Good communication skill
- Minimum 6 months working experience

REGISTERED NURSE

- With at least 3 yrs. work experience
- Must be self-motivated, hardworking and service-oriented
- Computer Literate
- Good Communication Skills

DOCTORS

- Specializes Internal Medicine, Cardiology

CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANT

- Pleasing Personality
- Very good command of oral & written English communication

MEDICAL ENCODER

- Computer Literate
- Preferably with medical background

MARKETING SUPERVISOR / MANAGER

- Excellent communication skills (oral & written)
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Must have excellent Customer Relation

Please being your resumé with 1x1 picture & photocopy of credentials. Screening of applicants will start at around 1:00 P.M. Please look for Misel or Sharah.

San Beda College Alabang

is accepting applications for the following job openings

FACULTY MEMBER

Area of Specialization: Music, History, Social Science or Economics

The Faculty Member is primarily responsible for classroom management and the delivery of instruction to students. S/He is also responsible for developing and implementing co- and extra-curricular activities designed to supplement learning processes and holistic student development.

- Must have graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary or Secondary Education and must hold a valid professional teacher's license. A Master's Degree in his / her own area of specialization is desirable. For the Music Teacher, s/he should be able to plan music for school assemblies and chapel services; can accompany a choir.
- Excellent in oral and written communication; computer literacy is required.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

The Guidance Counselor renders guidance and counseling services to the students of the Institution; Among his/her functions are to assist in the development of all guidance and counseling services, programs, activities, and procedures and ensure the implementation of the office's projects and activities.

- Must have graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology or in Guidance and Counseling. A Master's Degree in School Counseling is highly desirable.
- Must have at least one (1) year experience in handling students in the tertiary level.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

The Accounting Assistant shall be responsible for the monitoring and recording of payments and receivables due from students related to tution and other school fees and collections.

- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy is required with at least one (1) year experience in related work.

Please submit your resume with complete contact details to
Ms. Agnes of the Human Resource Management Office
at San Beda College Alabang, Don Manolo Blvd.,
Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City.
Telefax: 809-1794

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- Must be a qualified welder for all positions including metallic and mig welding
- Experience material handling equipment will be an advantage
- Able to work with a minimum supervision
- Applicants will require a pre-welding examination prior to employment

FABRICATORS

- Must be a qualified skilled fabricator with minimum of 5 years experience
- Must be able to read engineering Fabrication drawings
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- Able to work with a minimum supervision

ESTIMATOR

- The applicant must have a minimum of 5 years experience in Engineering preferably in Material Handling Industry
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- Can estimate material cost including manufacturing hours for fabrication and machining cost
- Must be able to read and comprehend engineering drawing and understanding of measurement tolerance
- Must be able to work with minimum supervision

***** Preferably all applicants must be a residents of Zambales and Olongapo City**

Interested applicants may send comprehensive resumé to:

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Bldg. 3 Rivera Pt., SRF Compound,
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- Have a minimum of 4 years experience as System Administrator
- Have significant experience with Linux and Solaris operating systems.
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- An understanding of project methodologies and project life cycles

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- Have a minimum of 4 years experience as Network Administrator
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- Have a minimum of 6 years experience as an Oracle Database administrator
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Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP 2) is funded with grant aid for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippine Government. The Technical Assistance Team is in need of

NATIONAL ADVISER ON LAND ADJUDICATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER

The candidate must have the following skills and experience:

- Appropriate tertiary qualifications in social sciences or land management and a commitment to pro-poor development outcomes
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- Ability to do analysis work flows and processes to achieve efficiency and accountability in systematic adjudication of rights in land
- Sound communication, organization and management skills
- Experience in implementing land management projects at a local level is an advantage

Applicants may email their CV with cover letter and at least 2 references to palamp1@mindgate.net or fax to 9281176. The full Terms of Reference are available upon request. **Deadline for Submission: 5:00 p.m., Monday 17 September 2007**

LAND equity

Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to www.landequity.com.au, for detailed information about the company and to www.phil-lamp.org for the project information.

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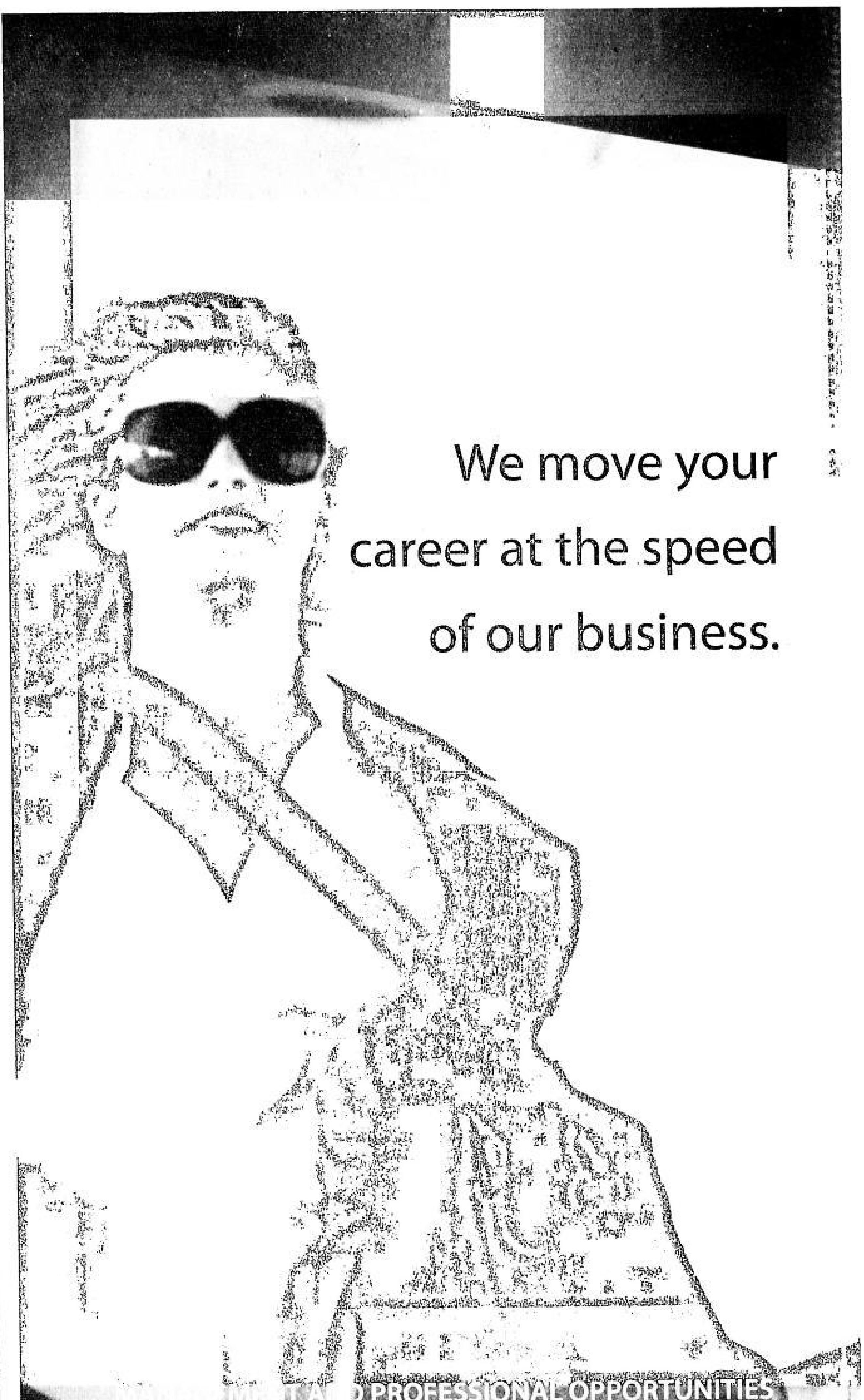

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- Must have extensive experience in plant pre-start, routine check, performance readings, plant monitoring and Work Permit System
- Must have the ability to identify problems and perform the necessary actions and to conduct preventive maintenance

CONTROL ROOM OPERATORS

- A graduate of BSEE or BSME with a valid professional license
- Must have at least 5 to 8 years related work experience preferably gained from a coal-fired power plant
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- Candidates must be able to communicate in English
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Systems Analyst, International
Lead and participate in the activities associated with identifying and analyzing user requirements to develop detailed design specifications for program and program enhancements; as well as coach and mentor designated staff in coding projects. Based on area of responsibility and departmental need, knowledge of: one program platform is required (Tandem, Windows, Unix, or Web) and/or one standard programming language is required (i.e., C, SQL, Visual Basic, C++, COBOL, HTML, PERL, Java/J2EE, People Code etc.). Based on assigned area, PeopleSoft 8.3 administration or higher experience preferred

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For inquiries, please call Jason Soriano of ECOP Research and Advocacy Department at tel. nos. 897-1329 or 890-4845 or e-mail: research@ecop.org.ph

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Role: Will sell DSL subscriptions by telephone

Requirements

- Appreciates the art of selling
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Requirements:

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Applicants may bring their resumes, transcript of records and 2x2 pictures to:

HR Department Filinvest Alabang, Inc.
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Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
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look for **GIAN MENDOZA**

Filinvest Land, Inc. 173 P. Gomez St. San Juan City
Tel. No.: 727-0431 local 213
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Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Achieve satisfaction via your work

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU spend working? If you're like most, you would probably say 8 hours, or 10 or 18. Some of you may even say that you think you're working all the time. You could be right!

The truth is, for the greater mass of working people, work takes up most of a normal workday. Consider, for example, that work does not only mean the actual number of hours you spend at your workplace. There are countless work-related activities that you have to do in order to be ready for work. You need to clean up and dress. You need to wait in line to get on a public transport or drive yourself to work. You need to travel around for meetings, conferences and workshops. You need to drop off the kids with your mother-in-law before proceeding to the office. You need to shop for office clothes. You need to attend the boss' birthday party or bring foreign guests for shopping. On occasion or as a matter of routine, you render overtime.

Extended work hours

It is also not so easy to relegate working to the workplace, however you define it. Many people bring home work, thus extending their work hours beyond the confines of the workplace. Modern technology, particularly the cell phone and e-mail, is one of the primary culprits in extending work hours beyond the workplace. While these modern-day inventions do increase work speed, they also remove the boundaries that confine work to the place of work. What this simply means is that the once office-tied employee who stopped working when the office closed is now available 24/7 and practically on call for anything that is even remotely connected with work.

And if the stresses at work continue to hound you, even your family dinners, vacations, and social gatherings are fraught with work woes.

These stresses even encroach on your sleep and you begin to have insomnia worrying about your sales targets. And if you dream about your boss, why, that's called a nightmare!

Dissatisfaction at work

What happens, then, if you are unhappy at work? Given that work occupies such a dominate space in your life, it is not inaccurate to say that an unsatisfying work life has tremendous impact on life satisfaction, as well.

The following thoughts might help you achieve satisfaction at work and ultimately contribute to life satisfaction.

A question of fit

Work satisfaction is largely a function of fit. Do you fit in your organization? Do you share its values and norms, believe in its corporate causes, define your meaning according to a company vision and mission that you partake in? Do you take pride in being a part of what the company stands for? Is its culture your own?

Grateful for the privilege

Being happy at work is also about being grateful for the privilege of being able to do the work that you do. Are you happy for the chance to be doing something worthwhile even as you provide for your daily needs? Even if your job does not fully satisfy you, do you still find it better than being out in the streets? If you still find a redeeming value in your job, then gratefully give it your best shot while you still have it!

Theologian Charles Ringma says that the only things we truly own are the things we are grateful for. Are you grateful that you have the job that you have?

Coworkers as friends

People also determine your work satisfaction to a great extent. Are your coworkers your friends, too, with whom you can share your life even outside work? Is your boss one with whom you are a subordinate, mentee and friend all at the same time? Can you laugh with your coworkers in the midst of gruelling workload and in the lighter moments around the coffeemaker or pantry?

Defining meaning

In the end, you achieve work satisfaction when you are able to see how your work helps you achieve meaning and purpose beyond yourself. Work is satisfying when it helps you fulfill your longing to contribute something of worth and value. Work is satisfying when it allows you to be who you really are.

Work as a gift

If you see work as a gift, then you will value it and perform it in the best way you can while you still have it. If it is taken away from you because you are retrenched, retired, fired, physically disabled, or for whatever other reason, would you regret not having valued your work when you still had it?

May you achieve work satisfaction, and in the process increase your chances of achieving life satisfaction as well!

(The author is a freelance HR consultant, trainor and writer. She is also a career counselor with Drake Beam Morin Philippines. Feedback at lcmante@yahoo .com)

Luke 14: 25-33

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

The cross of work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

MOST WORKERS WOULD CLAIM THAT THEY ARE NEVER COMPENsated enough for their efforts, every pain and suffering they bear on account of their work. The amount of money and other material benefits they get from working could not satisfactorily pay for the emotional hurts, psychological disorder, or some social ills caused by the undesirable factors in the world of work. Those who would want to get more value from their work should therefore look for more meaning than what the economic and material benefits of work can give. Jesus offers them and to anyone who has crosses to bear, a greater value and meaning—that of discipleship.

A worker can be a disciple of Jesus if he carries the cross of his daily work and does it the way Jesus did. He would look at his job not only as a means of livelihood for himself and his family but as a loving obedience to the will of the Heavenly Father who wants to save us from eternal death. He would not therefore use his job as an excuse for not doing his religious and Christian duties to himself and to his community. He would readily accept the difficulties and pains of his job with the joy of knowing that he takes part in the sufferings of Jesus and such union with Him could bring everlasting joy for him and for other believers. He would consider his coworkers and others as persons worth loving and working for.

Working as a disciple of Jesus could offer to most workers a much greater or higher reason to work and therefore would give them greater if not total satisfaction of their needs both material and spiritual. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

The seed of satisfaction

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IN WORK, AS IN LIFE AND EVERYTHING ELSE, WE CANNOT ESCAPE burdens. We like to call it a "cross" if we're Christians because it's something we associate with what we carry that gives us pain. Whether it's a pain for the spirit (as when we're forced to do work we do not like to do) or a "pain" in some part of the human anatomy (that's what we call the unbearable boss), it's but human to wish to be freed of it. We try to escape it sometimes, while some try to escape it all the time, but if we give it enough thought we'll see that our burden is the very thing that paves the way to our success and fulfillment.

It's not our load per se that bogs us down but our inept handling of it. We are clumsy at managing our burden because we do not know its value in our work. I've worked with grumblers and complainers who live only for pay day, and yet even pay day is not spared from their griping. They want a job without problems and make a problem of any job. A pity, because some of them are so talented but their attitude blinds them to their own potential to grow and advance in their career.

So how do we know the importance of burdens in our work? As a people who take pride in being followers of Jesus we can—especially at times when problems at work push us to the edge—recall His words echoed in today's Gospel: Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. We may as well say "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be happy" because it is the truth. Just as the darkness of the cross contains the dawn of the resurrection, the burden of work contains the seed of lasting satisfaction. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

Open communication builds trust

By Roel A. Andag
Contributor

"BIG COMPANIES RUN ON TRUST. Our company is set up so that information—both good and bad—travels upward at a rapid pace. And I insist that none of our leaders block the information flow. At the heart of every good team is open and honest communication." –Jeff Immelt, GE CEO

Is trust such a pricey commodity that only corporate giants like GE can afford?

Judging by former GE CEO Jack Welch's book "Straight from the Gut," the company cultivates trust via open communication. Immelt's statement merely reiterates the fact. The company has a profound understanding of its multifaceted relationships with its stakeholders and publics—the board, consumers, employees, investors, suppliers, competitors, media, policymakers, the community where it operates, and even critics. GE dialogues with all of them. The company keenly appreciates the long-term impact of meaningful communications, both internal and external, on business vitality.

Trust is not bought. Neither can it be obtained through intimidation.

Communication builds trust. Trust builds teams. Trust establishes brands.

Trust emits from honesty. And honesty is not size-related. It applies to all packages. It is not its monolithic size that compels GE to observe honest and open communication.

A company operates in two modes: business as usual (BAU) and crisis (CRI).

When a company is dishonest in its communications during BAU, it will be very difficult to become honest in CRI. If a company is sneaky about promotions and incentives, expect it to be less forthcoming about looming mergers and other emergencies. The crop cannot be harvested without planting the seeds. To begin with, dishonest companies are prone to CRI situations. Dishonest communication has exposed the clay feet of otherwise respected companies and individuals.

Make communication a trust-promoting tool. Follow these tips:

1. Inculcate honest and open communication. Categorically include this thrust in key statements such as company vision, employee policies and speeches. Lead by example.

2. Specify reasonable parameters. Open communication is meaningless when not imbued with a sense of responsibility. Open communication should be congruent with corporate governance principles. Trade secrets, for example, should never be shared wantonly with outsiders.

3. Eliminate layers of communication screens. Install processes and technology that facilitate unfettered flow of information. Establish a streamlined documentation system.

4. Do not cultivate "assets" assigned to spy on their colleagues. These assets are liabilities because they breed betrayal. Demand objectivity through peer evaluation instead.

5. Establish rewards for honesty (alongside performance) and sanctions for dishonesty. Be impartial in dealing with employees. Administer rewards and penalties fairly. Reinforce ethics.

6. Foster dialogue with key stakeholders. Set quality time for formal and informal discussions. Information is power. Learn from stakeholders' insights and implement their ideas whenever practicable. Acknowledge their contribution.

7. Be honest, sincere and consistent in your message. Never mangle, twist, fabricate or sugarcoat information. This especially applies in high-stress CRI situations when difficult messages such as bankruptcy, dissolution, and job loss have to be communicated. Honest communication need not be traumatic. Words and phrases have been coined to deliver truth tactfully.

8. Measure results. Monitor public interest (as evidenced in customer inquiries, job applications and media attention, among others), improvement in lead times, and sales increase, when attributable.

Organizations that thrive on secrecy attract unnecessary scrutiny. Trust is not contingent on the size of the company. Honest and open communication promotes trust. Trust cultivates respect and loyalty.

(The author is a training and communication consultant. E-mail the author at success.system1@gmail.com.)

Know and leverage your talents

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Tita Datu Puangco

A FEW YEARS BACK, A HIGH school classmate sent her niece to me for career counseling. She was an information technology graduate from a prestigious university graduating with honors. She resigned from a lucrative job doing programming work, because she had to work most of the time in solitude.

When I asked how she was, tears started to roll and sobbing she said she was very unhappy.

After a few tests, I discovered she was an extrovert doing a job suitable to an introvert. She realized that people energize her and she decided to pursue a masters degree in human resource management. Later she joined a multinational company and now does human resource work in China. Once in a while she drops by the office when she is in the country to greet and thank me for helping her find the job that matches her talent.

Talent vs nontalent

A nephew had a tough time finishing high school. In college he pursues his talent which is drawing and making cartoon characters. He takes animation arts and lands on top of his class. He has found his area of talent. A lawyer friend of ours spent his entire corporate life as a lawyer and recently discovered his artistic side. Recently he did a one-man exhibit of his paintings and experienced real fulfillment. Another client of mine now in human resources decided to pursue law and spend time offering legal services to the poor.

Discover your talents

I realized that happiness in the work we do depends on knowing where our talents lie. When you have time, reflect on your skills and make a list:

Complete the sentence, "I am a person who can ____." Then, think of work you are capable of doing and enjoy most and add to the list. What do people tell me I am good at? What inspires and energizes you? What task can you work on for hours and days and still feel good?

Then look for the opposite, what work tires and depresses you? For example, in my case, numbers and financial reports make me sleep while they perk up my younger sister. While I have to review financial reports as part of my job as owner of a company, I know it is an area on nontalent and therefore I ensure reliable staff to help me in this area.

Then the final question: Do you like to work with people? Or prefer to work with things or information? What skills have you used in the past that made your employer notice you? Of the people you know whose job would you be capable of doing?

Develop your vision

You may be in a job, that is an area of nontalent today, but don't rush to resign. Instead develop a vision and start to prepare yourself by honing your talent. Find ways to use your talents in your current work.

But keep your vision visible. One technique is to draw your vision in a piece of *katsa* (canvass) using textile paint. Then post it at a place in your room where you constantly see it. Then develop a transition plan, it may take years to happen. I stayed in the corporate world for many years in jobs that were in my areas of talent. But I realized the past 17 years working and building small enterprises challenge my creativity and allow me to pursue my mission. I continue to tirelessly do my work and fulfill my dream.

Idea value cycle

Subir Chowdhury, author of "The Talent Era" suggests the IDEA value cycle to pursue your talent.

I - is to invest in yourself. Understand the competencies needed for you to polish your talents. If there is a short learning course or a graduate school degree to attain, go ahead and invest in learning. Or it may mean looking for a mentor who can take you in as an apprentice. Someone I know had the vision of setting up a bakeshop. She helps around a friend who gladly teaches her the techniques of the trade.

If you work in a corporation, take advantage of opportunities for career planning. Take a look at available opportunities inside the company aligned to your vision, let your superior know your interests and ask for his or her help to move you closer to your dream job. One call center agent managed to move from her current job to a marketing position she aspired in a span of four years.

D - is for think differently. Take a long view and ask yourself, "How can I do things differently in my area of talent that will enhance my return in talent (RIT) in the next coming years?" If you are to compete in your area of talent, what do you have to do differently to add value?

E - stands for emotional commitment. Great success comes to people who commit themselves with perseverance and determination in their areas of talent. They commit to be the best in their field.

Finally A - is for action. You have to take action at the right time. For talent not acted upon is simply potential.

On a wider realm, corporation
today continue to spot and nurtu
talent.

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UNFPA

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

VACANCY NO : FT-2007-05
DATE ISSUED : 09 September 2007
CLOSING DATE : 21 September 2007

POST TITLE	**Administrative-cum-Finance Associate**
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT	Fixed-Term
LEVEL	ICS 7
OFFICE & LOCATION	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

I. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila, is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of Administrative-cum-Finance Associate for the UNFPA Philippines Country Office.

Under the direct supervision of the Country Representative, the Administrative-cum-Finance Associate will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Adapt processes and procedures, anticipate and manage operational requirements of programme/project inputs under national execution in terms of personnel, sub-contracts, equipment, fellowships, study tours and other programme and project-related events to facilitate programme/project delivery.
- Prepare and monitor the administrative and program budget and ensure financial transactions are in accordance with UNFPA financial rules and procedures. Propose procedures to improve internal controls and efficiency and respond to audit issues.
- Manage the recruitment and selection process, applying best practice Human Resource tools and mechanisms, advise and brief managers and project personnel on different types of contract modalities, HR policies and benefits, coordinates the Performance Appraisal and Development Process and advise on performance issues.
- Implement corporate systems and applications in support of Finance and Human Resource management and Country Office operations; create systems and mechanisms for effective management of UNFPA resources required for national execution (NEX) and advises and trains project staff in NEX procedures and maintains continuous and accurate/updated flow of information between the Country Office and Headquarters.
- Review procurement requests and initiate procurement procedures for office and project equipment, supplies and services in a transparent and cost-effective manner; recommend procurement decisions. Contribute to the smooth running of the office by ensuring the provision and maintenance of service and supplies follow-up processes and maintaining up-to-date inventory and records and recommending disposal action on unserviceable/excess equipment.
- Review and prepare material for common system activities in relation to Common Services and Premises, cost recovery, privileges and immunities, entitlements and salary surveys, security, etc. and represent UNFPA in related inter-agency meetings and working groups in the absence of the representative.
- Support the monitoring of programme financial performance for all core and non-core resources by providing necessary financial information and analysis, including implementation rate against indicators/results. Detect potential over/under expenditure problems and suggest remedial actions.
- Develop tools and mechanisms for effective and efficient monitoring of programme and project budgets, coordinate compilation of financial data and provide accurate and updated financial information to Headquarters on a continuous basis.
- Interpret financial policies and procedures, particularly relating to NEX and provide guidance and training to staff and project managers. Strive to identify ways in which progrmame financial needs can be met within existing policies.
- Assist in the management of the Country Office budget by budget formulation, controlling allotments, monitoring expenditures, and preparing revisions according to the needs of the office.
- Review and monitor changes for common services and cost recovery, taking into account maximum cost efficiency and represent UNFPA's interest in related negotiations and agreements.
- Perform other related duties as may be required e.g. oversight of IT, etc.

II. ESSENTIAL SPECIFICATIONS AND CORE COMPETENCIES

- Minimum academic degree: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Commerce, Accountancy, Finance or related field.
- Ten years or more of relevant experience in accounting, administration and Human Resources in the public or private sector.
- Should have excellent communication, analytical, facilitating and inter-personal skills.
- Proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets and other current office software applications. Knowledge in PeopleSoft will be an advantage.
- Acts in accordance with United Nations' values and demonstrate personal commitment to organization's mandate and vision.
- Takes personal responsibility for personal learning and career development.
- Works collaboratively with colleagues inside and outside of the organization.
- Must have strong conflict and self-management skills.
- Willing to travel to UNFPA project areas in the Philippines

The selected candidate will receive a salary that is commensurate with his/her background and work experience.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P. 11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and send to:

Human Resources Unit
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza
Ayala Ave., Cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post title on or before 21 September 2007. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed.

UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

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2. At least 10 years of progressive procurement and operations experience with strong leadership skills.

HEAD-STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT

Manage and direct the strategic purchasing activities. Reports to the Chief Procurement Officer.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A degree holder in engineering, business or related degree; graduate degree will be an advantage.
2. Five to ten years purchasing experience.

SENIOR BUYER, STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT

Leads in developing, managing and continuously improving the supply base for assigned material commodities/services. Reports to the Head, Strategic Procurement.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A degree in Engineering or Business; graduate degree an advantage.
2. At least 5 years experience in procurement.
3. Good interpersonal skills showing great ability to interface with all levels of the organization.

PURCHASING RESEARCHER

Works on special projects relating to the collection, classification and analysis of data needed to make better purchasing decisions. Reports to the Head, Strategic Procurement.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A degree in statistics, economics or industrial engineering.
2. At least 3 years experience in procurement and/or economic research
3. Strong knowledge of advanced statistical techniques; computer literate.

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Only licensed agencies allowed to conduct Internet-based recruitment

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) said that measures have been initiated to prevent illegal recruitment through the Internet.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) allows only licensed agencies and their legitimate representatives to post vacancies and recruit Filipino workers through the Internet. The POEA is a Dole attached agency.

Brion said the POEA Governing Board, through Resolution No. 6, series of 2007, gives the recruitment agencies and their legitimate representatives which are registered with the POEA such authority as a measure to curtail illegal recruitment through the Net.

Brion, who chairs the POEA Board, urged workers looking for overseas jobs through the Internet to check with POEA whether the agency or individual posting vacancies in the Net are licensed and whether the vacancies are complemented with appropriate job orders from abroad.

The Dole chief noted that the emerging trend of recruitment and posting of job vacancies on the Internet have provided unscrupulous individuals the opportunity to victimize workers in search of high-paying overseas jobs.

He said that would-be victims are usually lured with overseas employment offering generous salaries and benefits that most often appear "too good to be true."

The labor chief said that victims of illegal recruitment fall prey to perpetrators, popularly known as scammers, after being advised to submit credentials and deposit money to unknown accounts.

Online recruitment scams requiring applicants to deposit money to certain accounts are most likely fraudulent, Brion said as he reiterated his warning to all Filipino workers to go through legitimate channels only when applying for overseas employment to avoid being victimized by such scams.

RP banks to develop special remittance system for OFWs

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST BANKING INSTITUTIONS HAVE joined hands to develop a special and more affordable remittance system for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) as part of their efforts to support the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) in ensuring the effective reintegration of OFWs from the time they decide to leave for abroad until their eventual return to the Philippines.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that nine major cooperating banks have jointly expressed their support and commitment to collaborate with the NRCO to actively engage in delivering programs, services, and projects or activities aimed at reintegrating returning OFWs to the social and economic mainstream.

Brion said the cooperating banks issued a joined statement of support to the NRCO during the recent stakeholders' workshop held at the Blas P. Ople Development Center Bldg. Which houses the NRCO in Intramuros, Manila.

The banks, which were represented at the stakeholders' workshops, are the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, Metro Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, United Coconut Planters Bank, Asia United Bank, and Banco de Oro.

The Labor Chief said the banks specifically committed, among others, to develop and offer an easier, faster, and affordable special remittance and financing schemes for OFWs to motivate them to transfer funds to the country using formal channels, particularly in the area of savings, loans, and investments.

Brion said that savings mobilization is an essential part of the NRCOs' reintegration program for OFWs, adding that all center activities for OFWs shall include cooperating banks conducting seminars on financial literacy, financial planning, wealth management, and investments.

The cooperating banks will also assist the NRCO and other stakeholders and service providers in formulating and implementing other beneficial projects for the OFWcommunity.

US-awarded Fil-Am author speaks at PMAP confab

IMELDA ROQUE Roberts, the first female and lone Filipino-American to receive the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2006 in the United States, visits the Philippines in a series of speaking engagements and book launching of special limited edition "Barefooted Soul."

In her first speaking engagement in the Philippines, Imelda will be featured during the "Learning in Concert" on Sept. 28, at the 44th PMAP Annual Conference in Cebu. She will speak on what it takes to be a Filipino in a global environment, emerging trends in human resources and characteristics that led to her successful life culminating in an Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor are presented to American citizens of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their own ethnic groups, their ancestral countries, and to the United States. Past medalists include six US Presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government. Both the United States House of Representatives and Senate have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which ranks among this country's most prestigious awards. Each year, the names of its recipients are listed in the Congressional Record.

From a homeless scholar sleeping in the sidewalks of Divisoria, to living in a dilapidated one-room house near the Smokey Mountain, to a progressively responsible position at San Miguel Corp following her graduation as a full scholar from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Imelda's life journey is a legacy to the strength of the human spirit.

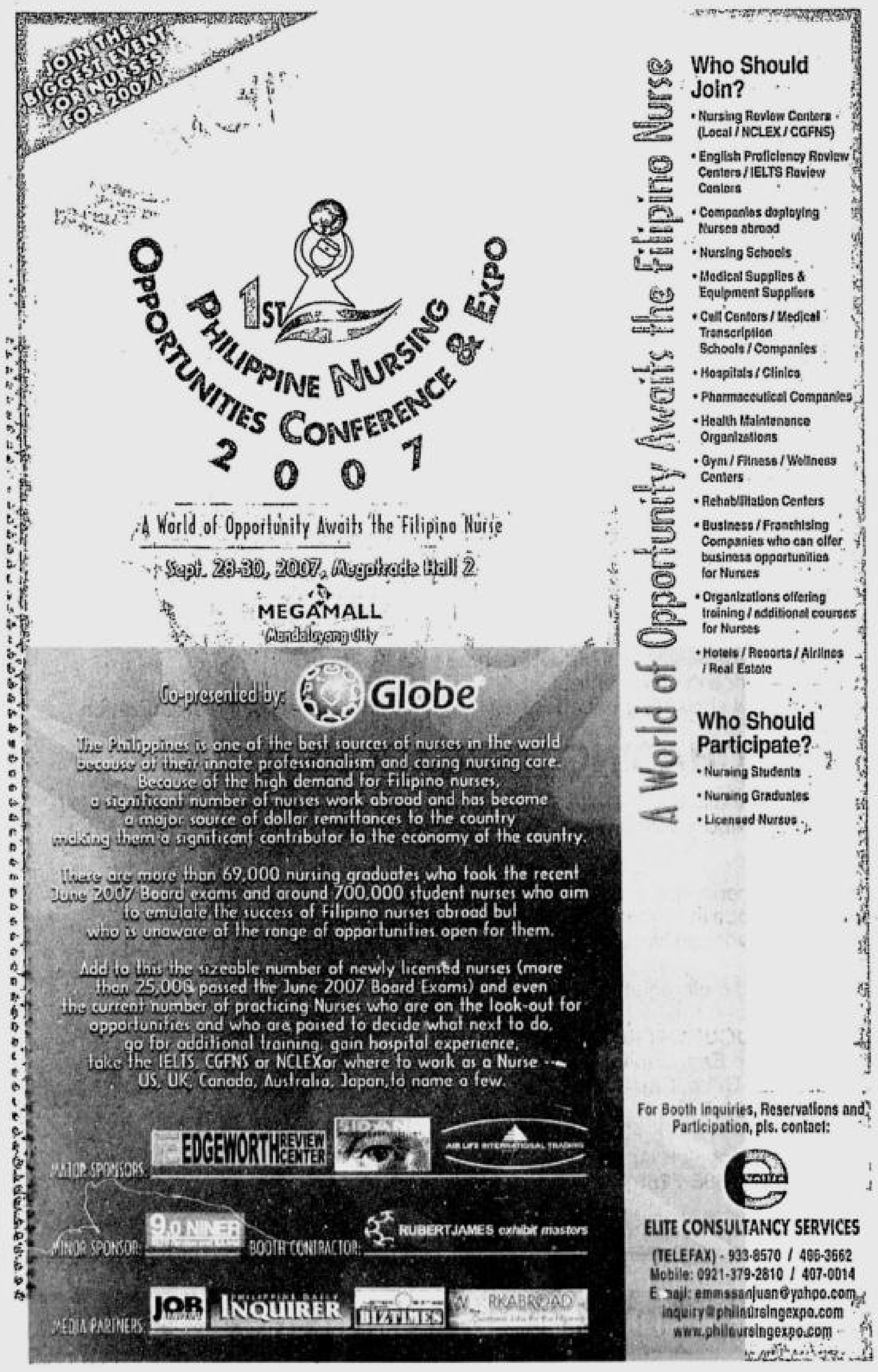
Following a tumultuous past, she migrated to the United States and started over again doing odd jobs. From serving the stomachs of dignitaries to serving inspirational food for the human soul, to achieving highest positions in her field in prestigious organizations in the Washington, DC area, she rose to be a well-respected and an award-winning leader in people management. She held various leadership positions, including chair of the National Certified Public Managers Consortium comprised of 28 states, president of the Local Government Personnel Association for the Washington-Baltimore Area, Cabinet Official and Chief Human Resources and Administrative Officer at the City of Frederick, Maryland. She has been the Director for Human Resources Management at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments since 2000 where she oversees numerous regional efforts in human resources. She is also currently the President and CEO of First Magnitude International.

Her rise from abject poverty to a life of prosperity both in her personal and professional life is an inspirational journey that is captured in her book, "Barefooted Soul," which she completed in just 40 nights.

Though she did not have a music background, she composed several songs that are included in this book-CD package. She was featured in several newspapers, magazines, and television for her life's accomplishments showcasing her multi-talents, and how she turned adversity into opportunity.

Imelda is also expected to speak during San Miguel Corp's 8^{th} Annual Business Practices Forum. She will also grace various events along with television appearances to bring awareness to her advocacies ranging from poverty, women's issues, domestic violence, overseas Filipino workers, and education.

Her fundraising efforts will support the Church of Hope in Smokey Mountain and a scholarship fund for poor but deserving scholars.



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The Philippines is one of the best sources of nurses in the world because of their innate professionalism and caring nursing care. Because of the high demand for Filipino nurses, a significant number of nurses work abroad and has become a major source of dollar remittances to the country making them a significant contributor to the economy of the country.

There are more than 69,000 nursing graduates who took the recent June 2007 Board exams and around 700,000 student nurses who aim to emulate the success of Filipino nurses abroad but who is unaware of the range of opportunities open for them.

Add to this the sizeable number of newly licensed nurses (more than 25,000 passed the June 2007 Board Exams) and even the current number of practicing Nurses who are on the look-out for opportunities and who are poised to decide what next to do, go for additional training, gain hospital experience, take the IELTS, CGFNS or NCLEXor where to work as a Nurse — US, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, to name a few.

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VOICEWORX-Basic Voice Acting Workshop	Sept. 15	Creativoices Studio Makati City	Creativoices Production Tel. 7297274/0919-5731714/0906-2611079 www.creativoices.com
Understanding the Issues in Contracting and Outsourcing	Sept. 19	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Developing Your Supervisory Leadership	Sept. 19 1-5 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas	Porter & Miles. Call Mercy at tel. 638-7719 / 20
Customer Relations Management & Marketing	Sept. 19-20	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 /0917-3257870 www.Ariva.com.ph
Performance Based Salesmanship	Sept. 24-25	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 /0917-3257870 www.Ariva.com.ph
Pollution Control Officers Training Course	Sept. 25-28	ECI Training Center Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 /0917-3257870 www.Ariva.com.ph
Implementing Rules and Reg. for RA 9480 or Tax Amnesty (DO 29-07)	Sept. 25 1:30-5:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas	Powermax Consulting Group Call Leni at 687-9014 / 5748
Learning from the IR Structures and Standards of Japan	Sept. 26	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Revisiting the Labor Mgmt Cooperation Scheme: What Works & What Does Not	Oct. 3	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 10	TBD (South/North Luzon)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Evaluation & Salary Structure Design	Oct. 11-12	Century Park Hotel	Magnitude Human Resource Devt. Tel. 0917-8909595 magnitudehrd@yahoo.com
Managing Organization-Based Conflict	Oct. 17	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Management Training Program Essentials for Organizational Development	Oct. 23-25	Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Graphics and Publishing Seminar	Oct. 24-26	AIM Acced Conf. Cent Makati City	James Tornea tel. 632-8960639 / fiera@info.com.ph
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 31	TBD (Visayas)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph

PMAP partners with top media for annual confab

THE PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (formerly the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) has partnered with the country's top media for the coverage of the 44th PMAP Annual Conference.

Sharing the vision of PMAP of a more competent People Management Practice in the country, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin, Businessworld, Manila Broadcasting Company and GMA7 will be delivering the latest updates on the PMAP Conference. With the theme, "People Deliver! Linking People and Results", the said conference will hold what may be the largest gathering of human resource and line managers, directors and CEOs in a three-day event. The conference will feature topnotch speakers on excellent people management, with two-time Malcolm Baldrige Award Winner Dr. David E. Spong leading the keynote. Delegates to this event will be treated to learning discussions that will definitely help their company's and their own career advancement.

The 44th PMAP Annual Conference will be held on Sept. 26-28 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. Interested parties may call the PMAP Professional Staff at Tels. 726-1581/88/32, email pmap@pmap.org.ph or visit www.pmap.org.ph.

3 - 5 SEPTEMBER 2007 ; GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER

• SEPTEMBERFEST CAREER EXPO 2007 - COMPANY PROFILES •

Company profiles

ERRATUM

In the September 2 Jobfair issue, IBM Business Services, Inc. (IBS) was inadvertently missed in our company profiles page.

IBM Business Services, Inc.

IBM Business Services, Inc. (IBS), which started in January 2004 with only 100 employees, is now the leading Business Transformation Outsourcing (BTO) Delivery Center in the Asia Pacific region.

Over 1,800 IBS employees deliver best-in-class Human Resources (HR) and Finance and Accounting (F&A) services to every part of the world. Our client base is composed of large multinational corporations, such as Procter & Gamble, Kodak, Avon, CVS, Lenovo, Rhodia, and IBM.

Our continued success greatly depends on our people – on their motivation, talent, and values. Our philosophy provides employees with outstanding opportunities for enhanced skill development and career advancement. Our global skills framework allows employees to develop their technical and industry skills through the right mix of education, training, knowledge, and experience. Our culture inspires our people to be dedicated to every client's success, fosters trust and responsibility in everything they do, and fuels their passion to drive innovation within the company and for the world.

We want you to be a part of our success and to thrive in our organization. We offer extensive training programs, challenging roles, and established career paths. Along with an attractive compensation and benefits package and an enjoyable working environment, IBS is undoubtedly one of the best employers in the country today.

42 hired on the spot

NCO GROUP MANILA, ONE OF THE 57 exhibitors in the recent Inquirer Job Market Career Expo at Glorietta Activity Center, Makati hired 42 jobseekers who attended the 'job fair' on Sept. 3, to 5 through the one-day screening process. The members of the NCO Group outsourcing team were Christine de Guzman, Christnell Olimberio, Jelly Mateo and Sarah Zabala.

Part of the screening was held at Be Connected Internet Café where the applicants were given tests and interviews.

More than 300 applicants had a great time trying out for NCOs gaming console account. The 42 applicants hired on the spot are for the technical support account and another 25 applicants will be hired as agents for other accounts.

Congratulations and welcome to the NCO family: Rafael Tan; Richard Gallon; Arvin Esteban; Robbie Rallama; Joana Alas; Karen Arigas; Thelma Ilumen; Ryan Joseph Sanchez; Cleofe Evangelista; Ralfy Abunasa; Joseph Dungca; Lloyd Galanto; Jorge Del Mar; Darwin Tapales; Carl Espallardo; Cristina Joy Moya; Lucio Roco III; Donna Andrea Corpus; Joy Michelle P. Rosales; Raquel M Balating; John Paul Lunas; Alexander Matujalem; Ritchie Toyann Garcia; Matthew Joseph Pico; Marlon Tan; Alexander Manuel; Rachelle Andora; Erwin De Guzman; Maria Corazon Nicolas Kong; Joseph Lacuate; Carl Marc Cabato; Rhea Katrina Gaspar; Jermaine Guela; Raymond Aurelio; Patrick Renan Revilla; Mervina Erracho; Rogelio Alonzo Roldan; Alexander Layad; Noel Duetes; Jennylyn Chua; Clair Mae Jaula and Jesusa Quimson.

Coming are more exclusive job fairs at the Araneta Coliseum Circle. See you also at Rasa Best of Singapore, Sachi Japanese Cuisine on Sept. 11 and Sept. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Developing supervisory leadership skills

THE PRODUCTIVE OR ANEMIC PERFORMANCE of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Empower and equip your Supervisors on Sept. 19, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for registration / more information. Limited seats only.

DOF department order on tax amnesty seminar set

FINALLY, A SEMINAR ON DOF DEPARTMENT Order 29-07, the Implementing Rules and Regulations for RA 9480 or Tax Amnesty, will be held. This special workshop will reveal top secrets on sure-fire ways to save money without undermining integrity. Don't miss this very important event slated on Sept. 25, 1:30 – 5:30 at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA; Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan; and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing. This seminar is sponsored by Powermax Consulting Group. Please call Leni at 687-9014 / 5748 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

GULF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING & CONSULTANCY
DOHA, QATAR

Is in need of the following:

1. **2 PROJECT MANAGERS:** *B.S. Civil Engineering, min. 15 yrs.exp. in const'n of large bldg. projects .W/ credentials in Project/Const'n. Management Well-versed w/ Primavera and MS Project, working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 3, 287 - US$ 4, 931*
2. **3 RESIDENT ENGINEERS:** *15 yrs. exp. in design & construction of large highway projects. Well-versed w/ Primavera & MS Project, working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 3, 287 - US$ 4, 931*
3. **1 SEWERAGE (Networks/Pumping Stations/STP) ENGINEER:** *15 yrs. experience in const'n and design. Well-versed with MS Word, MS Excel and AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 3, 287 - US$ 4, 931*
4. **1 PLUMBING, DRAINAGE & WATER SUPPLY ENGINEER:** *B.S. Degree Engineering. Min. 10 yrs. exp. in design of building services, water supply and drainage. Well-versed w/ MS Word, MS Excel & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 2, 740 - US$ 3, 287*
5. **1 MECHANICAL ENGINEER:** *B.S Degree in Mechanical Eng'g. min. 10 yrs. experience in design of HVAC in building. Well-versed in MS Word, MS Excel and AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 2.740 - US$ 3, 287*
6. **1 UTILITIES ENGINEER:** *B.S Degree in Civil Eng'g. Min. 10 yrs. experience in the supervision of utilities (sewerage networks, pressure pipe lines, electrical cables, telecommunications cables, etc) related to large highway projects. Computer literate. Salary Range: US$ 2, 740 - US$ 3, 287*
7. **1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (DESIGN):** *B.S Degree in Electrical Eng'g. min. 10 yrs. experience in design of LV, MV, HV, EHV, etc. Well-versed w/ MS Word, MS Excel and AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ US$ 2, 740 - US$ 3, 287*
8. **1 MATERIAL ENGINEER:** *B.S Degree in Civil Eng'g. min. 10 yrs. experience in materials & quality control in major highway projects. Knowledge of MS Office & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 2, 740 - US$ 3. 287*
9. **2 SENIOR QUANTITY SURVEYORS:** *Degree in Quantity Surveying. Min. 10 yrs. experience in dealing w/ major highway const'n projects. Knowledge of MS Office & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 2, 740 - US$ 3, 287*
10. **1 PLANNING & SCHEDULE ENGINEER:** *B.S.Degree in Eng'g. min. 10 yrs. exp. in planning and scheduling of major highway const'n. projects using Primavera. Well-versed w/ MS Word, MS Excel & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 2, 740 - US$ 3, 287*
11. **2 SENIOR HIGHWAY SURVEYORS:** *B.S.Degree in Geodetic Eng'g. Min. 10 yrs. Experience in major highway projects. Able to operate GPS & Total Stations. Knowledge of MS Office & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 2, 740 - US$ 3, 287*
12. **2 HIGHWAY SURVEYORS:** *B.S.Degree in Geodetic Eng'g. Min. 7 yrs. experience in major Highway projects. Able to operate GPS & Total Stations. Knowledge of MS Office & AutoCAD .Salary Range: US$ 1, 780 - US$ 2, 740*
13. **3 AUTOCAD OPERATORS:** *B.S Degree holder. Minimum 8 yrs. AutoCAD experience. Well-Versed w/ 3DS Max Photoshop. Salary Range US$ 1, 096 - US$ 1, 369*
14. **10 BUILDING & HIGHWAY INSPECTORS:** *B.S Civil Engineering . Min. 10 yrs. relevant Experience. Knowledge of MS. Office & AutoCAD. Salary Range: US$ 1, 644 - US$ 2, 191*

Qualified Applicants please report immediately to:

LAVANDER INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES /
POEA LICENSE NO. 309-LB-111303-R
3/F Brofar Bldg. 7493 Bagtikan St. Makati City
Telephone No. 8977950 Fax No. 7898498
E-mail address: Lavander_intl@yahoo.com.ph
FOR MANPOWER POOLING/NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
"MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITER"

Management Systems International (MSI) project with offices in Salcedo Village, Makati, is looking for a

Human Resources Assistant

The Human Resources Assistant will report to the Manager of Office Operations and Administration. He/She will ensure that the required advertisements for future openings are drafted, approved, and published according to USAID, based on the Work Plans of various components, formulate and regularly update the recruitment plan/schedule; coordinate and conduct the initial screening and initial interviews of all acceptable Project applicants; assist the Component Manager (CM) or Senior Advisor (SA) to construct lists of highly qualified (short-list) applicants; coordinate and schedule interviews for short listed applicants with CM and/or SA; ensure that the Project-selected applicant completes the EBD (USAID Form 1420) to the specific standard required by USAID; verify the specifics of the completed EBD with the applicant's CV and coordinates corrections with the applicant in cases of discrepancies; verify the employment and the salary histories of the applicant; use the appropriate salary compensation plan provided by the MSI Home Office (HO) and coordinates with the HO that the compensation to be negotiated with the applicant is within the range prescribed by the HO; negotiate with the applicant regarding compensation using the amount authorized by the Finance Department or the approved compensation plan; submit the results of the Finance Office and applicant negotiations and the necessary employment documents to the Chief of Party (COP) or Director of Procurement, as appropriate, for further processing of the USAID employment approval through the HO; and complete other tasks requested by Project management.

The Human Resources Assistant must have at least 3 years professional experience, and MUST have at least 3 years USAID administration and finance policies and processes experience.

Interested applicants, please send in your applications to **mpastrana@msi-mca.com**, or mail them to Unit 2302, 23rd Floor, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Sedeno corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati, 1227. Deadline for applications is on Sept. 17, 2007

URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

FEMALE ACCOUNTANT

Preferably with experience
Computer Literate, with knowledge in Quick books & a resident of Cavite

FEMALE ACCOUNTING STAFF

Computer literate, preferably newly graduate & resident of Cavite.

Please send Resumé, photocopy of academic credentials to:

P.O. Box No. 30915
Imus Post Office
Imus, Cavite
arlene_rallos1103@yahoo.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

A security & telecom provider company is looking for

ECE GRADUATE

with OSP & Autocad background/
VISIO APPLICATION

- Male/Female
- can work independently and with initiative

Bring resumé, transcript of records & 2x2 ID Picture on Monday & Tuesday to

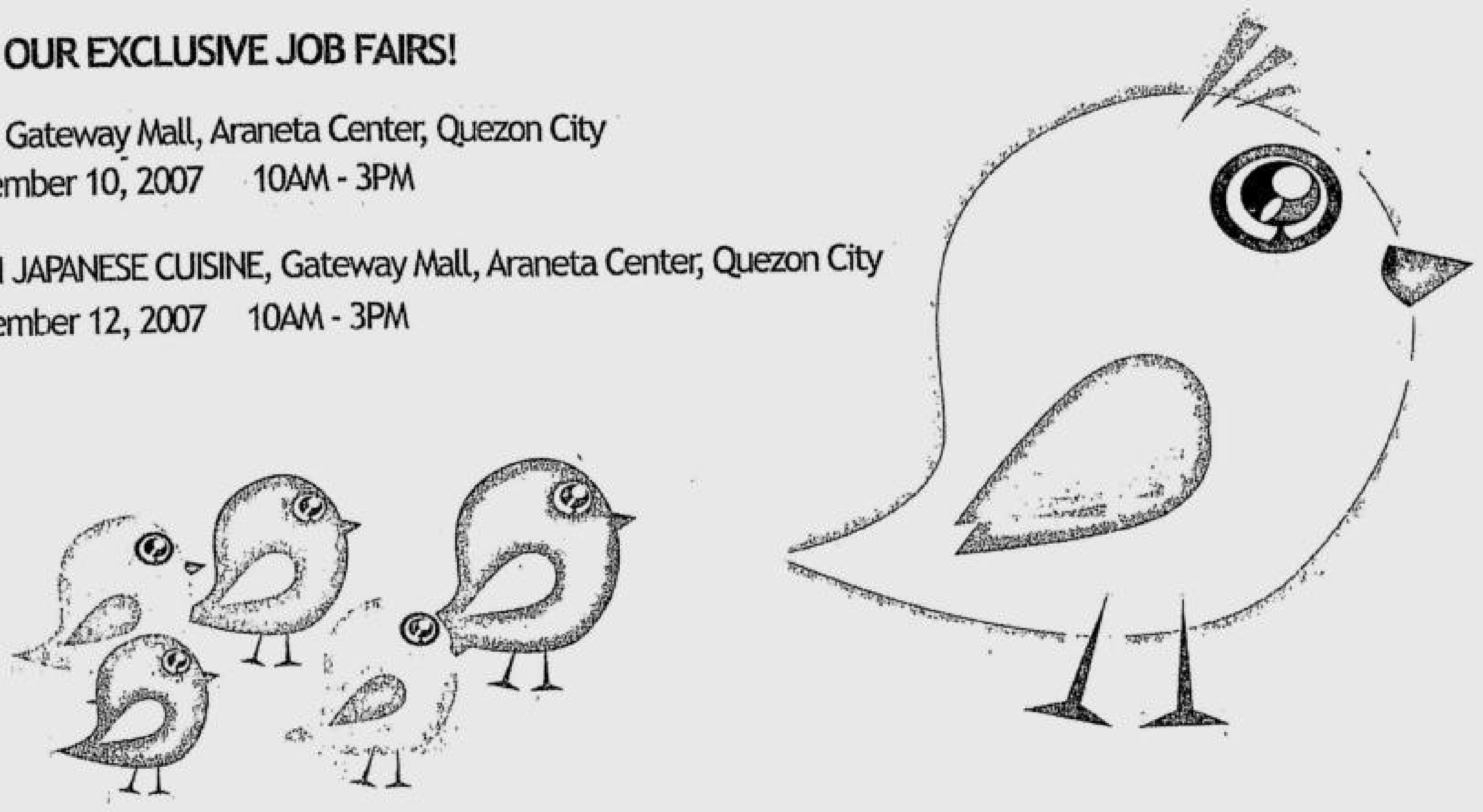
JNJKONS ENTERPRISE
1594 Gr. Flr. MICAH Bldg., Aragon St.
cor. Dos Castillas St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Contact Nos. (02) 741-6388/785-2055
E-mail Address: jnjkons@yahoo.com

NCO GROUP

JOIN OUR EXCLUSIVE JOB FAIRS!

RASA, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Quezon City
September 10, 2007 10AM - 3PM

SACHI JAPANESE CUISINE, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Quezon City
September 12, 2007 10AM - 3PM



work with the leader. be a leader.

We are looking for results driven individuals to fill the following positions:

COLLECTIONS AGENTS • DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE AGENTS
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES • CUSTOMER SALES REPRESENTATIVES
L2 TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES FOR AN ISP ACCOUNT
TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES FOR A GAMING CONSOLE ACCOUNT

We are also looking for the following:
SENIOR RECRUITMENT MANAGER/ RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR • IT MANAGER • TELECOMS ANALYST • DATA NETWORK ANALYST
WINDOWS NT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR • IT OPERATOR • MS DEVELOPER • TRAINER • TEAM MANAGERS • OPERATIONS MANAGER

Come and see us
MONDAYS - SUNDAYS
9AM - 5PM

NCO GROUP RECRUITMENT CENTER
4/F Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communications Center
ABS-CBN Compound Mother Ignacia Avenue
Quezon City
Tel: 981 7564 | 981 7586 | 981 7558
manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

POEA TOP PERFORMER AWARDEE 2002-2005
RELIABLE RECRUITMENT CORPORATION
POEA License No. 004-LB-053106-R

URGENTLY NEEDED:

382 NURSES FOR NEW ZEALAND

In cooperation with Alta Solutions Limited Accred. No. 90011 and Arcee Nursing International Ltd. Accred. No. 73590.

- a REGISTERED NURSE
- Minimum of 1 year hospital experience
- IELTS passers with a minimum score of 7.0 in speaking, reading, writing, listening
- Become permanent resident and bring family after 6 months
- Salary: NZ$20 and over / hour
- Holder of NCNZ letter of approval may be deployed faster
- Nurses registered in New Zealand, United Kingdom and Australia have ready employers
- Placement Fee Financing Available

AUSTRALIA – NO PLACEMENT FEE
In cooperation with Kilcoy Pastoral Company Ltd. Accred. No. 10087922 and Global Recruiting Services PTY. LTD. Accreditation No. 10084705

90 BUTCHERS

- Must have 5 years experience working in slaughter house
- High School Graduate
- Willing to review and take IELTS test
- Ready to travel as temporary immigrant with wife if married
- Attractive Salary
- Other benefits under Australia labor law

HOTEL / RESTAURANT WORKERS
IN MACAU (S.A.R) CHINA
In cooperation with ANCHORE INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES LTD
Accred. No. 10112356

	Salary
* 4 MANAGERS	MOP$ 9,000
*15 APPRENTICE	MOP$ 5,000
* 6 SERVER BAR	MOP$ 5,000
* 7 BARTENDER	MOP$ 7,000
* 4 CASHIER	MOP$ 5,000
* 4 CHEF DE PARTIES	MOP$ 7,500
*20 COMMIS	MOP$ 5,500
*10 DEMI CHEF	MOP$ 6,500
*10 HEAD WAITERS / WAITRESSES	MOP$ 7,000
*15 HOSTESSES	MOP$ 7,000
* 6 CHEF PASTRY	MOP$ 9,000
*21 WAITERS / WAITRESSES	MOP $5,000

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:
- Age 23-40 - Male/Female – College Level/Graduate
- Can speak, read and write Good English – Resumé with detailed job description
- Transcript of Record College and/or Trade Diploma – Minimum 1 year experience
- NBI Clearance – Certificate of Employment
- Trainings/Seminars Certificates Driver's License, if any
- Ex-overseas worker, an advantage

PLEASE REPORT TO:
RELIABLE RECRUITMENT CORPORATION

Main Office: 1116 Grey Street,
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 5222128 5251935 / 5261310
Email: relcorp@skyinet.net

Branch Office, 2nd Flr., Ramtree Mall
Cebu City
Telephone: (032) 2549697
Email: reliablerecruitment@yahoo.com

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http://ps.jobsdb.com/PG&S/CallCenterAgents

Or Visit us : Mondays to Saturdays 8:00am to 5:00pm
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Or Call: (632) 727 0944 to 48
Mobile no. 0921-663-1142

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or Visit our Website www.multilingual.com.ph

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JOB Market

Inquire about the JobMarket Libre package at 897 8808 loc 514.

Inquirer LIBRE

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

An ISO-certified laboratory facility in Angono, Rizal engaged in the manufacturing of veterinary pharmaceutical products is looking for a

LICENSED CHEMIST

with the following qualifications:

- ☐ At least 3 years relevant experience gained from a veterinary/pharmaceutical/manufacturing plant specifically in carrying out chemical and physical quality control tests on raw materials and finished products; developing and implementing validation systems and procedures, etc.
- ☐ Computer literate
- ☐ Highly motivated and results-oriented

Please send resumé to:

SUITE 1009 ANTEL GLOBAL CORPORATE CENTER,
Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Region IV-A
CALABARZON

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Position Title: **Mediator-Arbiter**
Salary Grade: **25**
Item No.: **OSEC-DOLEB-MARB-24-199**
Qualifications: **Bachelor of Laws**
4 years of relevant experience
24 hours of relevant training
RA1080

Interested applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé and (with list of trainings and list of experiences), Performance Evaluation Rating and Bar Rating NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 21, 2007 to:

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director
3/F, Andenson Bldg., II,
Brgy. Parian, Calamba City, Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 545-7359

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

Zamil
Air Conditioners

ZAMIL AIR CONDITIONER

SAUDI ARABIA
Accreditation No. 72171 – 10

Our client, Zamil Air Conditioners is an ISO 9001:2000 company. With its head office and prime manufacturing base in Dammam, Saudi Arabia along with other manufacturing facilities in Austria and Italy, Zamil Air Conditioners produces over a half a million air conditioners per annum. With Cooline Air Conditioners as its international brand, it supplies air conditioning products to over 55 countries across the world, the major markets being KSA, GCC and the Middle East, Europe, Australia and North Africa.

SERVICE SUPERVISORS

- Diploma or Trade Certificate in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.
- 5 years minimum experience in aircon servicing, maintenance and contracts, including as supervisor.
- Candidates with GCC experience and driving license an advantage.

INSTALLATION SUPERVISORS

- Diploma or Trade Certificate in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.
- 5 years minimum experience in aircon installation including as supervisor.
- Specialized knowledge in controls, microprocessors, BMS, etc an advantage.
- Candidates with GCC experience and driving license an advantage.

FOREMEN

- Diploma or Trade Certificate in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.
- 5 years minimum experience in installation and repair of all types of aircon system, including chillers and large tonnage central A/Cs.

AC MECHANICS / TECHNICIANS

- Diploma or Trade Certificate in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.
- 3 years minimum experience in installation and troubleshooting of wide range of aircon system, including mini-split and package A/C units.

Foreign Principal will conduct interviews in Manila starting **10 September 2007** onward. Please report at ISD Office with your resume and all pertinent copies of documents to support skills and qualifications. Alternatively you can email your resume in MS Word format at isd@isdphilippines.com or fill up our On-Line Application at our web site at www.isdphilippines.com

Beware of illegal recruiters. For Manpower Pooling Only. No Fees to be Collected.

International Skill Development, Inc.
POEA License No. 252-LB-091003-AOE
5439 Curie Street, Palanan Makati City
Phone: 550-1595, 551-7452, 551-7491
Fax: 551-9675
www.isdphilippines.com
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POEA Awardee:
Top Performer
Hall of Fame
Award of Excellence

JOB VACANCY

A Financing Company is looking for aggressive & goal oriented individuals to fill the job vacancies in our branches:
Binondo, Caloocan, Makati, Greenhills, Calamba & Cavite

ACCOUNTING STAFF
MARKETING STAFF
LEGAL & COLLECTION STAFF
MOTORIZED LEGAL & COLLECTION STAFF
MOTORIZED C.I. & COLLECTION STAFF
(will be assigned at Cavite Br.)

- male/female, between 21-26 yrs. of age;
- w/ pleasing personality & good moral character;
- graduate of a 4-yr course;
- goal oriented with strong desire to succeed;
- preferably a nearby resident of the branch.

Please submit your resume w/ latest 2x2 picture to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
2nd Flr. Tabacalera Bldg. I, #900 N. Romualdez St.,
Paco, Manila

HAVOC

JOB OPENING AT HAVOC DIGITAL PHILIPPINES, INC.

Havoc Digital Philippines, Inc. is a digital marketing company specializing in online advertising, user-generated content and e-commerce.

We are looking for **PHP/MYSQL Developers** with the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree preferred (Computer Science; Engineering – CoE/MIS/ECE/EE)
- Solid 3 years experiential background as a skilled PHP/MYSQL specialist focusing on usability and user databases
- Must be able to build the back-end systems for Havoc's interactive communication projects – from websites to web applications, from reporting systems to Flash and front-end integration
- Can handle several projects involving content management systems and/or user registration databases
- Good at problem-solving, trouble-shooting, analysis and proposing solutions on various support issues

Compensation package is negotiable depending on qualifications.

You may e-mail your CVs to **admin@pinoyexchange.com** with the subject heading **PHP/MYSQL DEVELOPERS**. Please indicate specific projects you have worked on and kindly include employment references.

WWF *for a living planet*

WWF, one of the world's leading independent conservation organisations, with a global network active in 100 countries is seeking to recruit a:

Corporate Relationship Manager

Functions:

- Assist the Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations in working with corporations to raise consultancy and long-term partnership donations by helping corporations understand and incorporate environmental sustainability in their entire business approach: strategic, operational, marketing.
- Be familiar with all sustainability standards such as ISO14000 series, GRI, etc. and other sustainability performance measures to initiate productive synergies with corporate targets.

Qualifications:

- Graduate preferably with a degree in Marketing, Business, Social Science or other related subject.
- A comprehensive understanding of commercial practices and multinational business environment.
- The capacity to conceptualize and implement business development ideas with a strong sense of project ownership and attention to detail.
- Ability to understand internal business processes of all sectors and explain in a succinct and simple, not simplistic, manner.
- Excellent organisational skills, responsive and an aptitude for precision.
- Minimum working experience of five (5) years in a corporate sector.
- Excellent communication skills in English.
- Must have people skills and be able to work as a team.
- Must be computer literate.

Membership Retention Manager

Functions:

- Develops the membership retention program to maintain a low attrition rate through activities for members and prospective members in line with WWF's Vision, Mission and Strategies.
- Develop members/ volunteers involvement program together with the Program Director and other membership staff.
- Develops together with the Service Provider and Marketing and Corporate Relations Head promotional packages for members, member activities.
- Implements together with the Service Provider, strategies to expand membership base, establishes member acqusition channels, and negotiates with partner corporations and other organizations on membership acquisition tie-ups.

Qualifications

- At least 1-2 years experience in corporate marketing in a membership-based corporation, credit card, telecommunications, or in a customer relationship company or advertising agency.
- Must be creative and have good writing skills

Interested parties may send their application & resume to Elisa Ramos-Diciembre at ediciembre@wwf.org.ph on or before September 21, 2007. We will respond to qualified candidates only.

Information Officer

Functions

- In the context of grant making, implement program of advocacy for various stakeholders such as media, national and local governments, business, and NGOs
- Manage the PCPD's website and the development and production of media materials that will make available information on population and development
- Nurture relationships with partners by providing technical support and conducting project monitoring and evaluation.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in mass communication or development communication; skilled in written and spoken English; experience in project development and/or project management; knowledgeable in the development and production of multi-media materials including interactive website

Part time Librarian

Submit resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo to Nydia Garin-Balangue, Administration & Property Management Officer, Philippine Center for Population & Development, Inc., PCPD Building, 2332 Chino Roces Ave. Ext., Taguig City, Tel. 844-7140 or by email to nydia@pcpd.ph.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER

- Open for part-time employment (Optional: full-time)
- Good Christian testimony in character, commitment and lifestyle
- Competence in rehearsing and leading contemporary worship
- Knowledge in wide repertoire of contemporary Christian music
- Proficiency in the English language
- Leadership and discipleship skills
- Music training a plus, Seminary training a bonus.

Please send application letter and curriculum vitae to

Administrator
MCPO Box 1386, 1253 Makati City

SIMEXPERTS CONSULTING, INC.

is in need of the following:

1. **Two (2) Research Associates**. Applicants must be graduates of public administration or social science course, able to write reports, willing to travel to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and can perform work with minimum supervision.
2. **One (1) Secretary**. Must have working knowledge with MS Word/Excel Applications. Previous experience with a law office preferred.

Interested applicants should submit their bio-data not later than the close of business hours on Monday, 10 September 2007, at this address:

The President
SIMEXPERTS CONSULTING, INC.
305A Crossroad, 77 Business Center
Mo. Ignacia Ave. cor. Scout Reyes
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TALAKAYAN SA DOLE

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion (3rd from left) stresses a point to the media during the recent launch of the "Talakayan sa DOLE," a media forum held every first and third Fridays of the month and organized by the Information and Publication Service of the Department of Labor and Employment. Also in the photo are OWWA Administrator Marianito D. Roque, Undersecretary Luzviminda D. Padilla, and POEA Administrator Rosalinda D. Baldoz.

Wage board grants pay hike to minimum wage earners in Calabarzon

THE WAGE BOARD IN REGION IVA OR CALABARZON has issued a new wage order granting daily pay hikes to private sector minimum wage earners in the region, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that minimum wage workers in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon which composed the Calabarzon will get an additional increase ranging from P10 to P13 in their daily basic pay.

Under Wage Order No. IVA-12, minimum wage workers in the six municipalities neighboring the National Capital Region consisting of Bacoor and Imus in Cavite, Binan and San Pedro in Laguna, and Cainta and Taytay in Rizal will receive the highest increase of P13 in their daily pay bringing to P300 their daily pay from P287 under the previous wage order.

Meanwhile, the minimum daily wage of agricultural plantation and non-plantation workers in other parts of Calabarzon will now be P275 from P262 and P255 from P242, respectively, per day.

Brion said the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board IVA (RTWPB IVA) acted motu propio in issuing the new Wage Order No. IVA-12 which provides for an increase in the daily pay of minimum wage workers in the Calabarzon even in the absence of any wage hike petition.

"The wage board found a need to increase the minimum wage levels to provide a relief in the cost of living of private sector workers without impairing the viability and competitiveness of business in Calabarzon," Brion said.

The Dole chief added that in issuing the new wage order, the Calabarzon wage board considered the region's gross domestic product and the employers' capacity to pay for a wage hike in line with efforts to sustain business viability to preserve and generate more jobs for the workers.

The new wage order also included a provision on productivity-based pay schemes that will allow additional pay or incentives to the workers through productivity improvement and gain sharing schemes.

The provision will encourage workers to be more efficient and productive in their jobs, Brion said as he urged employers and labor groups in other regions to enter into collaborative undertakings aimed at increasing workers productivity.

Wage Order No. IVA-12 will be reviewed by the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) and published in a newspaper of general circulation. It will take effect 15 days after publication.

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Excellent communication skills, both written and oral, including public speaking skills (as the incumbent will frequently be called upon to deliver speeches, remarks before large and varied audiences) is essential. English language proficiency must be equivalent to Foreign Service Institute Level 5 (native functionality). Working proficiency in Tagalog or other Filipino language is a plus.

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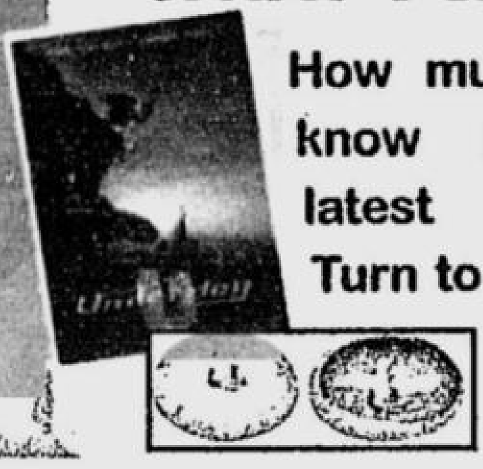

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A day with Kobe

By Ruth L. Navarra

BASKETBALL FANATICS ALL OVER THE country have reason to be envious of the students of Eliseo-Belen Elementary School.

Not only will they get a spanking new basketball court in their school, they are also the proud owners of a backboard signed by NBA superstar Kobe Bryant. The luckiest of them all got to meet the 6'6" cager in person at the Nike Park, The Fort on Sept. 5.

The popular LA Lakers player was in the country for "Supernatural Manila," a one-day promotional tour for the sports brand Nike. From here, he would proceed to other parts of Asia.

"Keep your dreams alive. Keep believing in your dreams and keep going after them," Kobe told the students who shyly stood beside him onstage. In turn, they gave Kobe a framed collage of drawings that they made.

"I love Manila! The reception is incredible; the energy is off the charts. I absolutely love Manila," said Kobe to the loudly cheering crowd before he left for the PhilSports Arena to share his expertise with young Filipino basketball players.

He left the audience in high spirits, but none would probably remember the event the way students of Eliseo-Belen would.

The group traveled all the way from Cabalantian, Bacolor, Pampanga. They arrived at The Fort in the morning and waited for Kobe's arrival for nearly four hours before finally meeting him. Despite being in the midst of a boisterous crowd on a hot day, the weary students remained wide-eyed.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

"I'm happy to be here and meet Kobe because I've heard that he's very good in basketball," says 7-year-old Anna Mikaela Valerio.

Eliseo-Belen is the first recipient of Nike's "Out of the Streets and Into the Courts" program. Nike sought the assistance of a non-government organization, Kabataang Inyong Dapat Suportahan (Kids) Foundation, to find deserving schools for their project.

"The program is about keeping the kids away from petty crimes and into good health through basketball," says Kids foundation president Diether Ocampo.

Diether explains that they chose Eliseo-Belen because the school lacks recreational centers. "If you go to there, you will find out that it sits on top of a lahar-submerged village," he says.

The original school was also buried in lahar in 1994. They relocated for some time in Clark Air Base and then to Madapdap, Mabalacat. They transferred to their present site in 1998.

"The basketball court will be finished within 60 days and it will benefit not only the students of Eliseo-Belen but also four barangays in the area," says Diether. "Our involvement will not end in basketball courts. We will also promote proper hygiene among the kids."

With Kobe Bryant inspiring them to reach for their dreams, anything is possible for these kids.

Junior INQUIRER
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

Guyito's Corral
Journal

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My Grandfather

By Matthew Campos
Grade 5, International School Manila

MY GRANDFATHER IS DR. PAULO Campana Campos from Dasmariñas, Cavite. For his achievements, he was named a National Scientist in 1991. Education was important to him, so he started schools in Cavite and Manila, both named after Emilio Aguinaldo.

I used to visit him every Sunday. I listened to his stories about the olden times. It seemed like a lot of hard work because they had to do things with their bare hands.

I was scared when he talked about World War II. He told me that the Japanese soldiers wanted to capture his father, but instead they captured his father's farm caretaker and tried to behead him. The soldiers left him for dead but the caretaker survived because there was a huge bone they could not cut through. My grandfather, who was a practicing physician, took care of him.

Maybe he liked telling me about his life because he wanted to give me an idea of what I want to be I grow up. When I had to do my homework on human rights, I interviewed him and he told me about Emilio Aguinaldo, Jose Rizal, Lapu-Lapu. But he never told me why there was also a fish with the same name.

We enjoyed talking to one another. They told me that when he was sick, he would always tell his nurses that he wanted to call me at 2 in the morning. I never knew why. Maybe he wanted to share a joke or more stories.

I was very sad when he died on June 2. When he was buried, the military fired 21 gunshots to honor him.

I think my grandfather was a great man because he was always working hard even when he was old. He thought of others before himself. I hope I can be like him.

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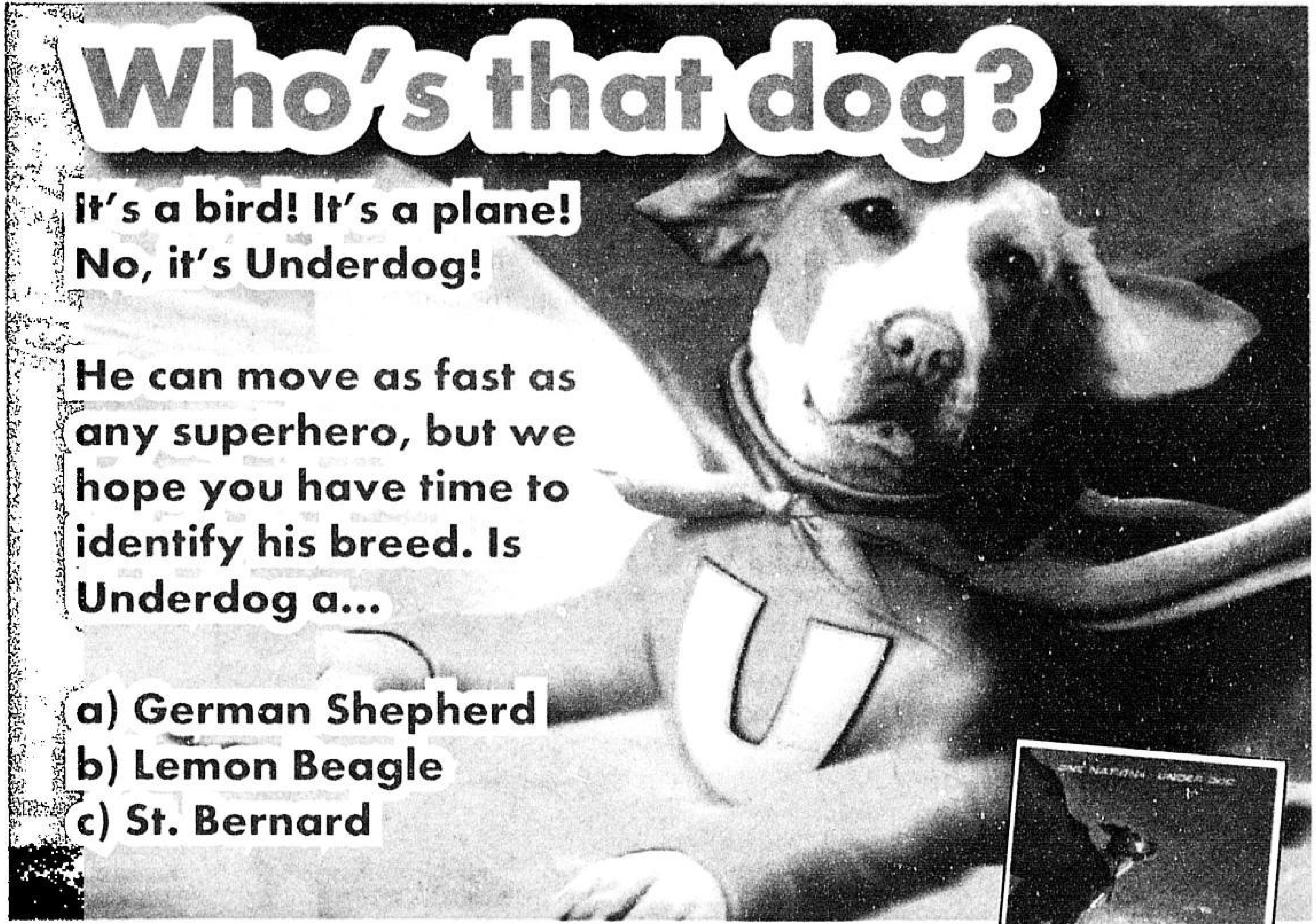
GRADE 5
DAVAO CITY

Thanks Marge, we hope you will end up reading books as well. Please email Ate Dianne Villafuerte at ji@inquirer.com.ph to find out how you will get our special gift.
—JI Staff

Who's that dog?



It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Underdog!

He can move as fast as any superhero, but we hope you have time to identify his breed. Is Underdog a...

a) German Shepherd
b) Lemon Beagle
c) St. Bernard

Send us your answer at ji@inquirer.com.ph. Please don't forget to include your name, age and address. Ten lucky winners aged 7 to 14 will each get an "Underdog" puzzle and a soft frisbee. Deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 11.

Underdog
dog

Think Out Loud!

WHAT IS THE BEST INVENTION?

Hands down, the airconditioner because it could get really hot and humid here in our country.—**Mito Fabie**, 13, Pasig City

The camera. With it, you'll have proof that you've been to a place or met a popular person.—**John Daniel Mercado**, 10, Pampanga

Basketball. It's the most fun sport in the whole wide world!—**Christian Santobal**, 12, Makati CIty

Balls of all kind, because they keep you from getting bored.—**Dan Cabrera**, 11, Marikina

The watch because it helps remind you of things you need to do. And it's a cool accessory too.—**Micaela Blesilda Sicat**, 11, Pampanga

The computer. There's so many things you can do with it, like school work or games.—**Shalyn Bengco**, 11, Pampanga

Guyito's Corral
Letters

I LIKE THE POEMS, STORIES AND LETTERS IN YOUR PAPER. I ALWAYS READ THEM.

I TELL MY MOTHER TO BUY THIS NEWSPAPER EVERY SUNDAY WHEN SHE GOES TO THE MARKET AND TO THE CHURCH.

I DON'T LIKE READING MUCH, BUT BECAUSE OF JI, I HAVE FUN READING.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! GOOD LUCK AND CONGRATULATIONS!

BEST REGARDS,
—MARGE TAN
GRADE 5
DAVAO CITY

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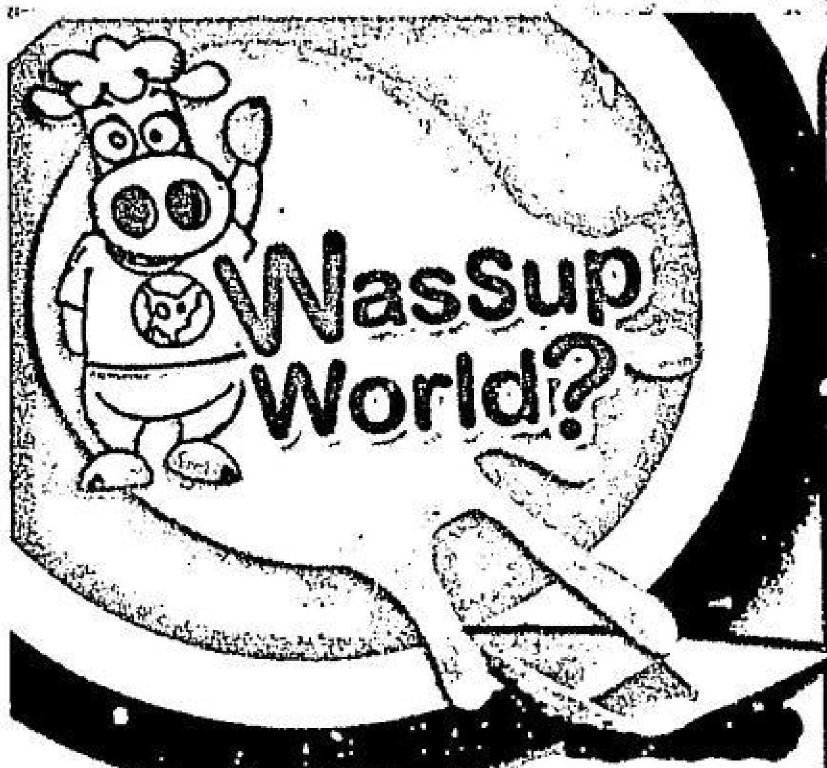
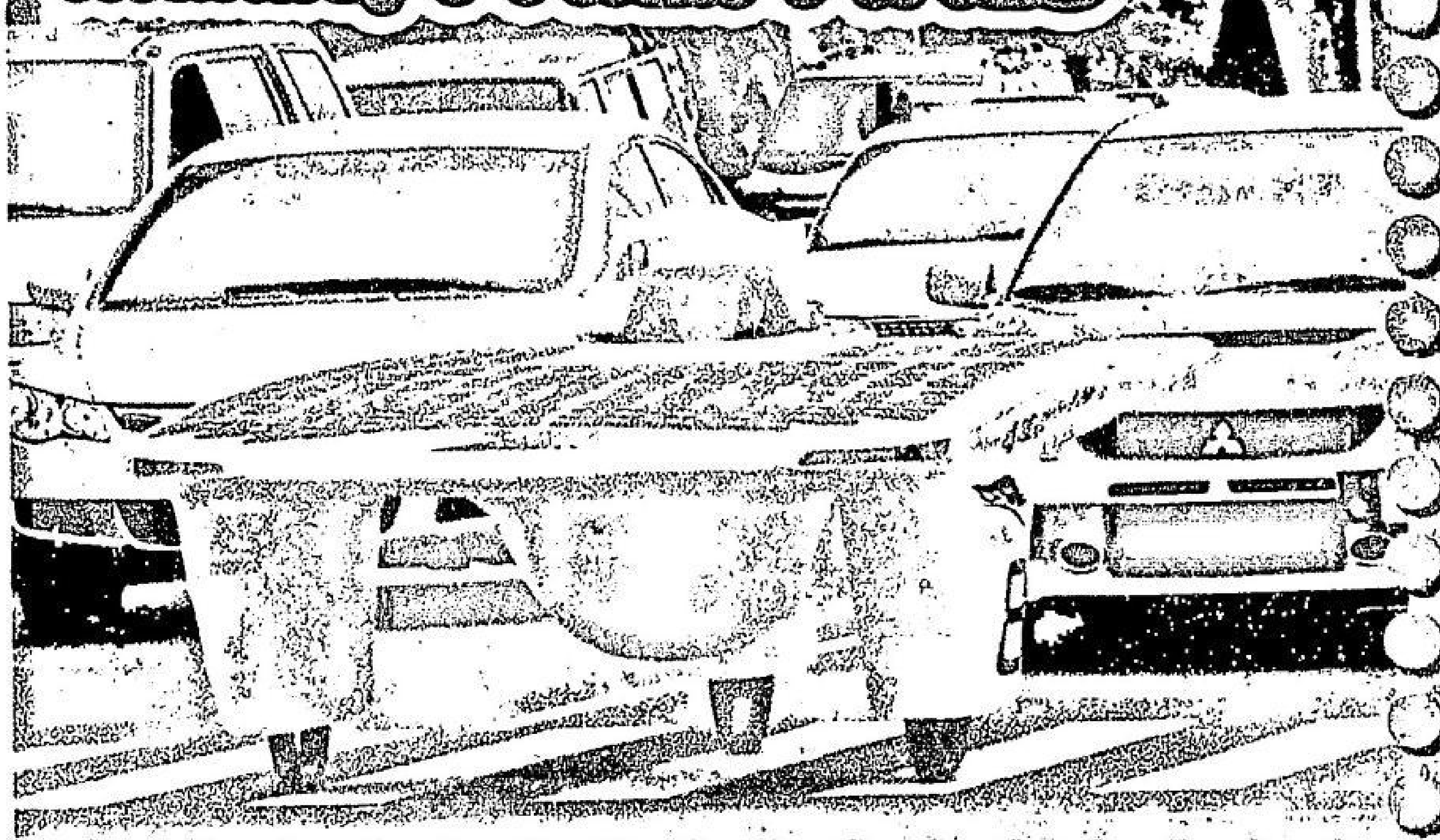

WassUp World?

Dude, what's your car?

IT may look a bit strange, but this car is hot! And we mean that literally, because this car is powered by the sun. The country's first solar-powered car will be participating in the World Solar challenge in Australia from Oct. 21 to 28. **Reuters**

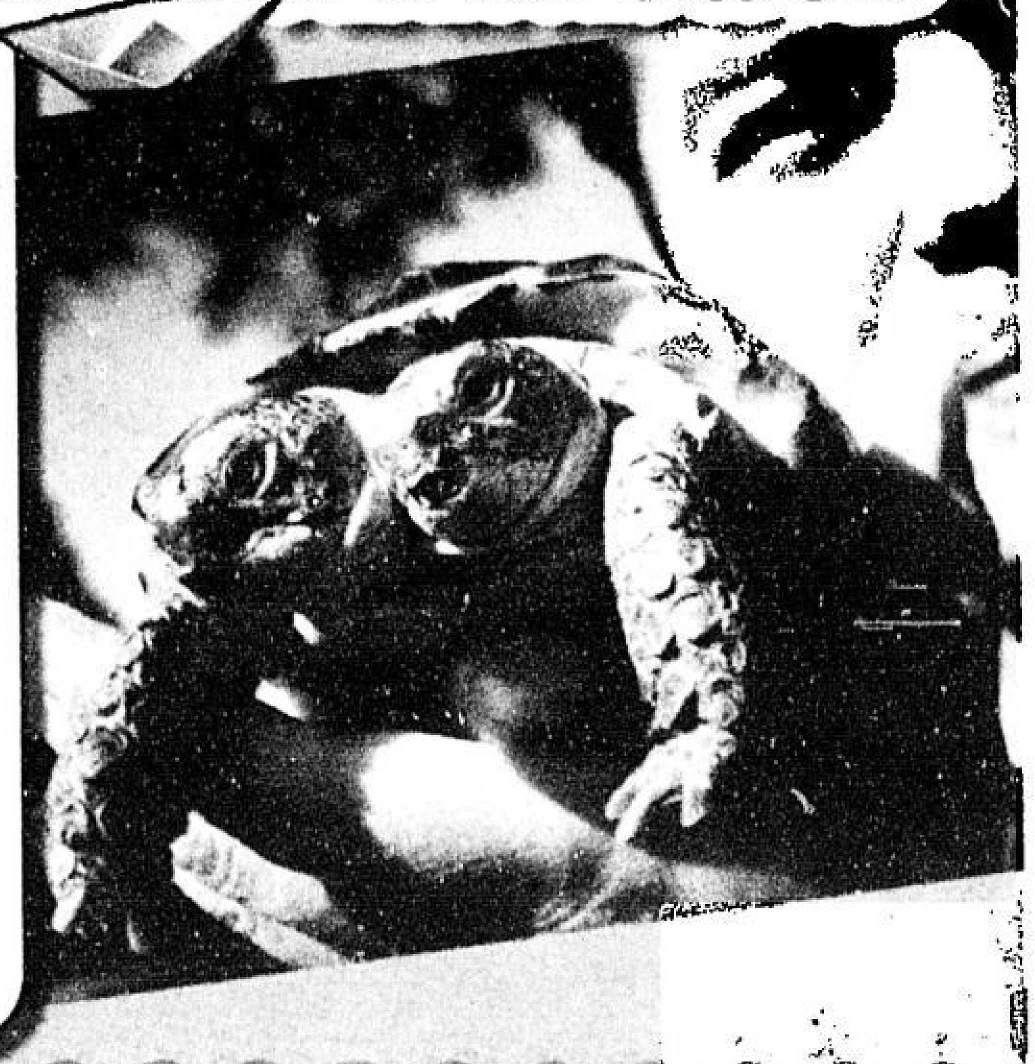
Manila, PHILIPPINES



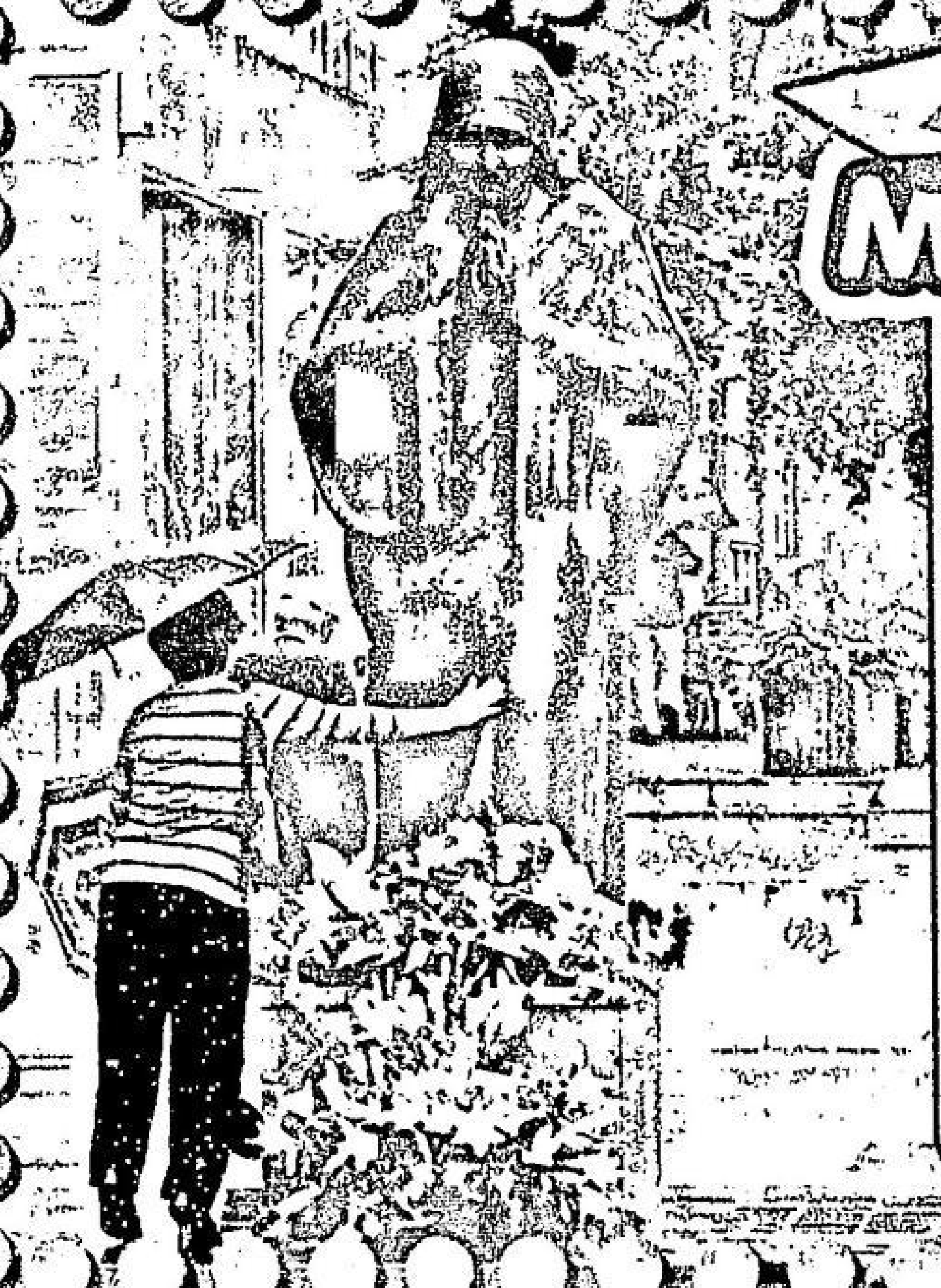
Geneva, SWITZERLAND

The two of us

A SCIENTIST at the Natural History Museum holds Janus, a two-headed Greek turtle in Geneva. The turtle, who was named after the Roman god with two heads, officially celebrated its 10th birthday on Sept. 5. **Reuters**



Skopje, MACEDONIA



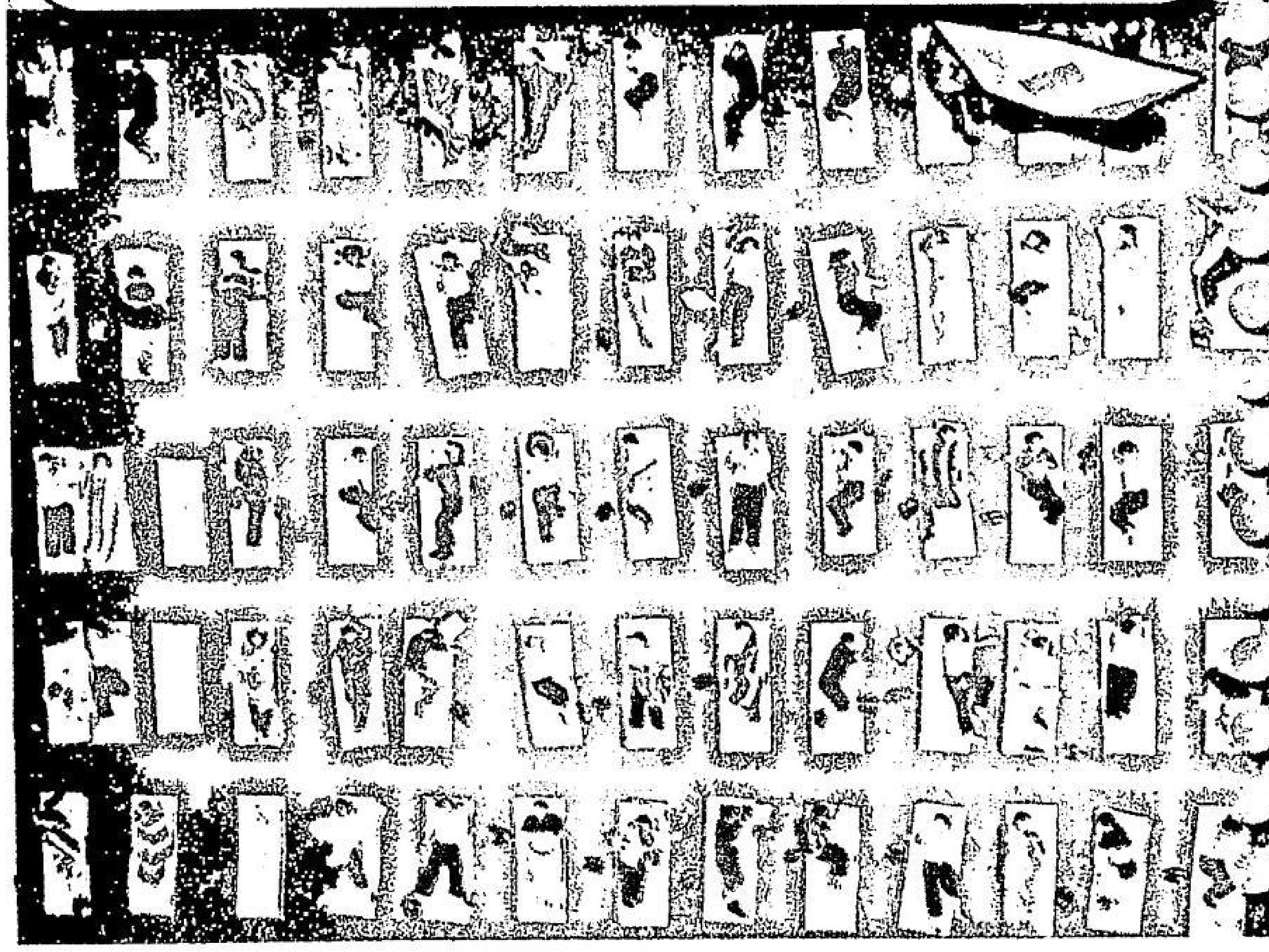
Extraordinary woman

PEOPLE pay their respects at the sculpture of Mother Teresa in Skopje on Sept. 5, the day of her tenth death anniversary. Mother Teresa was born in Skopje.She died at the age of 87. She was well known for her extraordinary love and dedication to the poor, the homeless and the diseased. **AFP**

Hubei, CHINA

Pleasant dreams

IT'S nap time at the school gymnasium for these parents who accompanied their children on their first day as university freshmen in Wuhan. China's development is spurring interest in getting a college education, but only about one out of every 230 people in China will achieve that dream. **AFP**



Baguio, PHILIPPINES

Magbasa tayo!

THESE Baguio teens decked in traditional wear are enjoying the revival of another tradition: reading locally produced comics. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts is reviving komiks, in recognition of its role in our national heritage. **EV Espiritu /Inquirer Northern Luzon**

ALL ABOUT CHEMISTRY

By Ruth L. Navarra
Photos by Rudy Esperas

ASIDE FROM DEXTER, WHAT KID in his right mind would want to be cooped up in a laboratory?

Students from Canlubang Elementary School would, because they've discovered that lab work could be fun!

BASF, a company that produces chemicals, plastics and agricultural products for different industries, brought the BASF Kids' Lab to Canlubang for a week-long event.

Through Kids' Lab, kids find out all about Chemistry through different experiments. Chemistry is the science that deals with the composition and properties of substances and elementary forms of matter.

"I FOUND THE PART WHERE WE MIXED DIFFERENT SUBSTANCES AND CHEMICALS INSIDE THE BEAKER EXCITING. I FELT LIKE AN EXPERT," SAYS NICOLE GRACE TALLEDO, 11.

Though Chemistry sounds complicated, the kids who performed three experiments that day really enjoyed making scientific discoveries. Their teachers took a day off from school to guide them through their tasks.

"MY FAVORITE IS WHEN WE MADE OUR OWN SLIME BECAUSE IT'S SOFT AND SQUISHY AND WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE IT HOME WITH US," SAYS 11-YEAR-OLD KIMBERLY ANNE VISAYA.

The students got to find out what makes a diaper super absorbent. There was a series of "oohs" and "aahs" when they saw how a teaspoon of superabsorbent granules absorbed 150 ml of water, yet felt dry when touched. No wonder babies sleep peacefully at night!

"I ENJOYED THE EXPERIMENTS BECAUSE IT ANSWERED SOME QUESTIONS I'VE HAD," SAYS ROCHELLE [illegible] DAYAND, 11. "[illegible] TOO YOUNG TO JOIN A YEAR AGO BUT THE WAIT WAS WORTH IT."

They also found out which popular drinks contain more Vitamin C. Plus, they created slime of different colors!

The BASF Kids' Lab is an annual event that started three years ago. Its participants are mostly grades five and six students.

As they happily played with slime that they created with their own hands, the kids of Canlubang Elementary School now know that chemistry and laboratory time can be play time too!

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

3X EXP SEPTEMBER 5-12, 2007 TO CELEBRATE EPISODE XV: RACHEL!
FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

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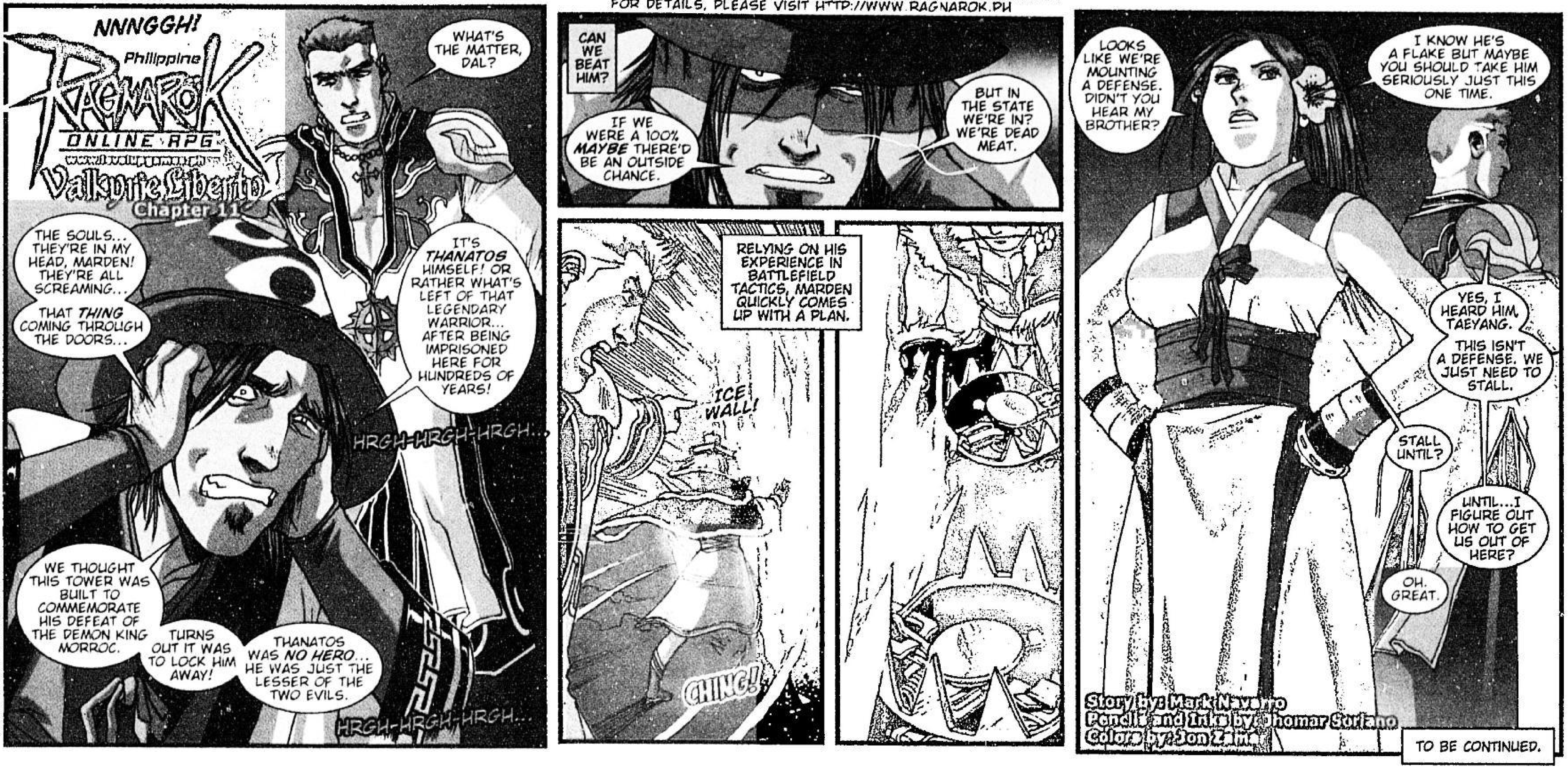
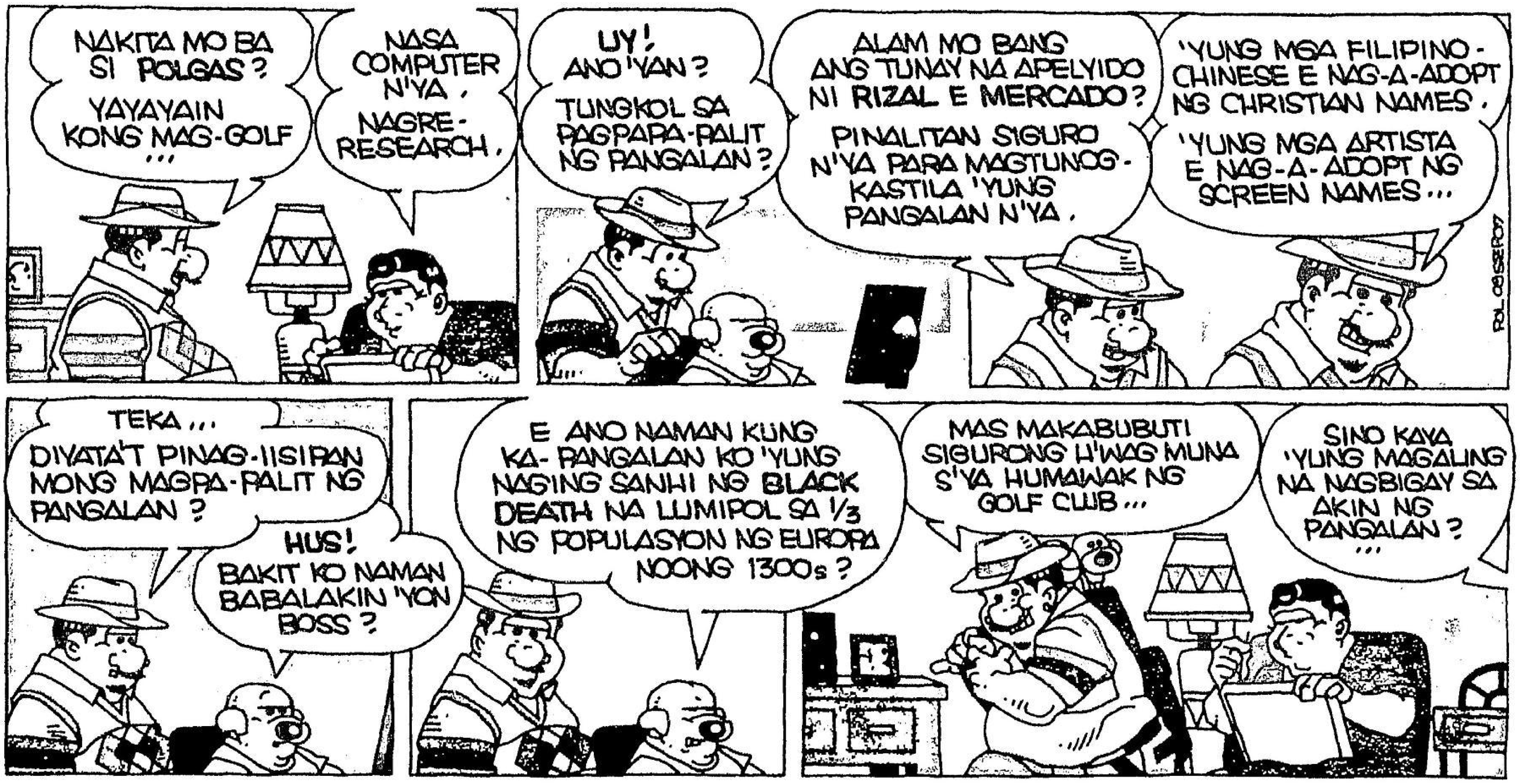

NNNGGH!
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
Valkyrie Liberto
Chapter 11
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAL?
THE SOULS... THEY'RE IN MY HEAD, MARDEN! THEY'RE ALL SCREAMING...
THAT THING COMING THROUGH THE DOORS...
IT'S THANATOS HIMSELF! OR RATHER WHAT'S LEFT OF THAT LEGENDARY WARRIOR... AFTER BEING IMPRISONED HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!
HRGH-HRGH-HRGH...
WE THOUGHT THIS TOWER WAS BUILT TO COMMEMORATE HIS DEFEAT OF THE DEMON KING MORROC.
TURNS OUT IT WAS TO LOCK HIM AWAY!
THANATOS WAS NO HERO... HE WAS JUST THE LESSER OF THE TWO EVILS.
HRGH-HRGH-HRGH...
CAN WE BEAT HIM?
IF WE WERE A 100% MAYBE THERE'D BE AN OUTSIDE CHANCE.
BUT IN THE STATE WE'RE IN? WE'RE DEAD MEAT.
RELYING ON HIS EXPERIENCE IN BATTLEFIELD TACTICS, MARDEN QUICKLY COMES UP WITH A PLAN.
ICE WALL!
CHING!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE MOUNTING A DEFENSE. DIDN'T YOU HEAR MY BROTHER?
I KNOW HE'S A FLAKE BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY JUST THIS ONE TIME.
YES, I HEARD HIM, TAEYANG.
THIS ISN'T A DEFENSE. WE JUST NEED TO STALL.
STALL UNTIL?
UNTIL... I FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET US OUT OF HERE?
OH. GREAT.

Story by: Mark Navarro
Pencils and Inks by: Jhomar Soriano
Colors by: Jon Zamar

TO BE CONTINUED.

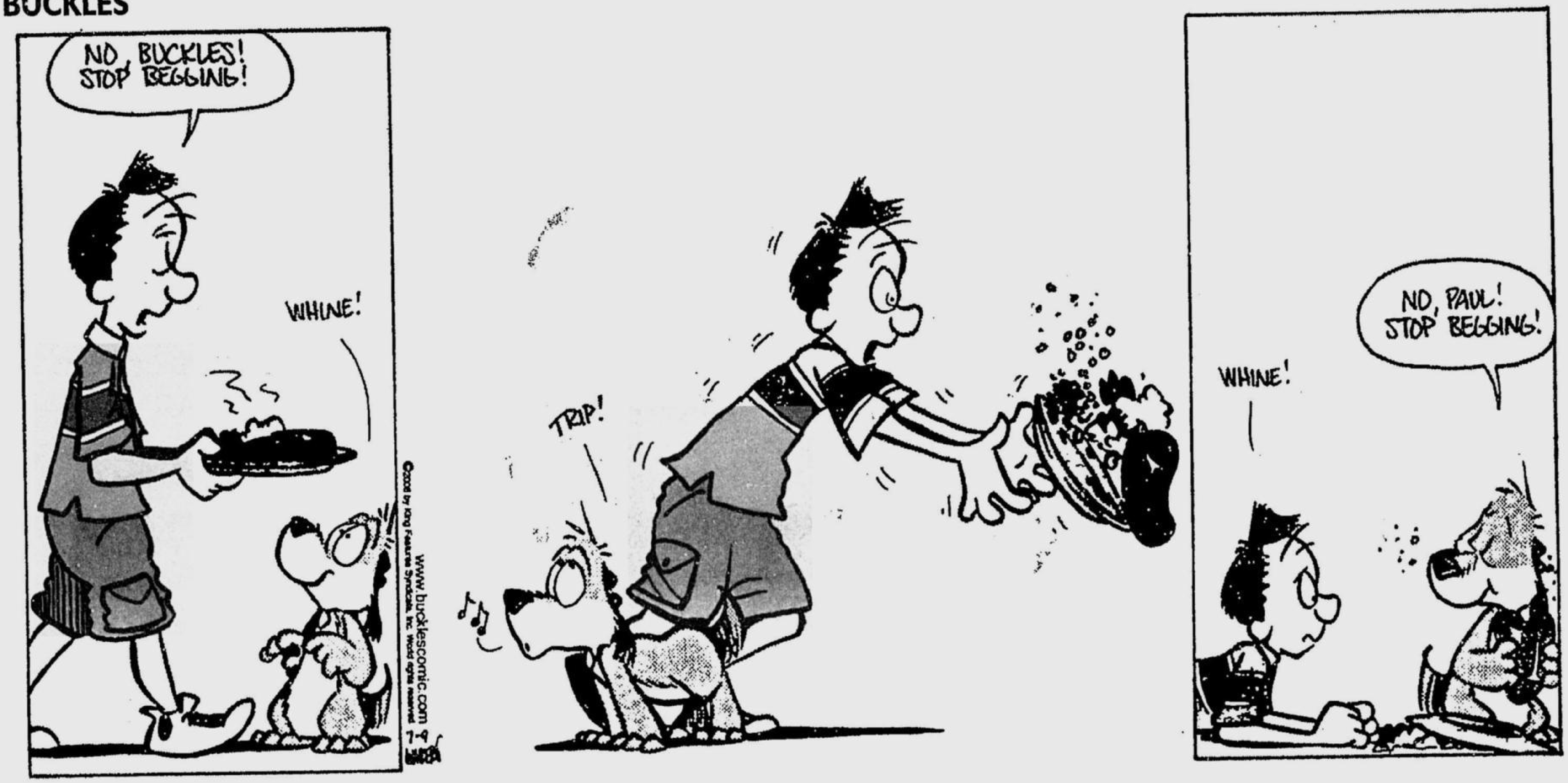
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


NAKITA MO BA SI POLGAS? YAYAYAIN KONG MAG-GOLF ...
NASA COMPUTER N'YA. NAGRE-RESEARCH.
UY! ANO 'YAN? TUNGKOL SA PAGPAPA-PALIT NG PANGALAN?
ALAM MO BANG ANG TUNAY NA APELYIDO NI RIZAL E MERCADO?
PINALITAN SIGURO N'YA PARA MAGTUNOG-KASTILA 'YUNG PANGALAN N'YA.
'YUNG MGA FILIPINO-CHINESE E NAG-A-ADOPT NG CHRISTIAN NAMES.
'YUNG MGA ARTISTA E NAG-A-ADOPT NG SCREEN NAMES...
POL 09SEP07
TEKA... DIYATA'T PINAG-IISIPAN MONG MAGPA-PALIT NG PANGALAN?
HUS! BAKIT KO NAMAN BABALAKIN 'YON BOSS?
E ANO NAMAN KUNG KA-PANGALAN KO 'YUNG NAGING SANHI NG BLACK DEATH NA LUMIPOL SA 1/3 NG POPULASYON NG EUROPA NOONG 1300s?
MAS MAKABUBUTI SIGURONG H'WAG MUNA S'YA HUMAWAK NG GOLF CLUB...
SINO KAYA 'YUNG MAGALING NA NAGBIGAY SA AKIN NG PANGALAN? ...

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


NO, BUCKLES! STOP BEGGING!
WHINE!
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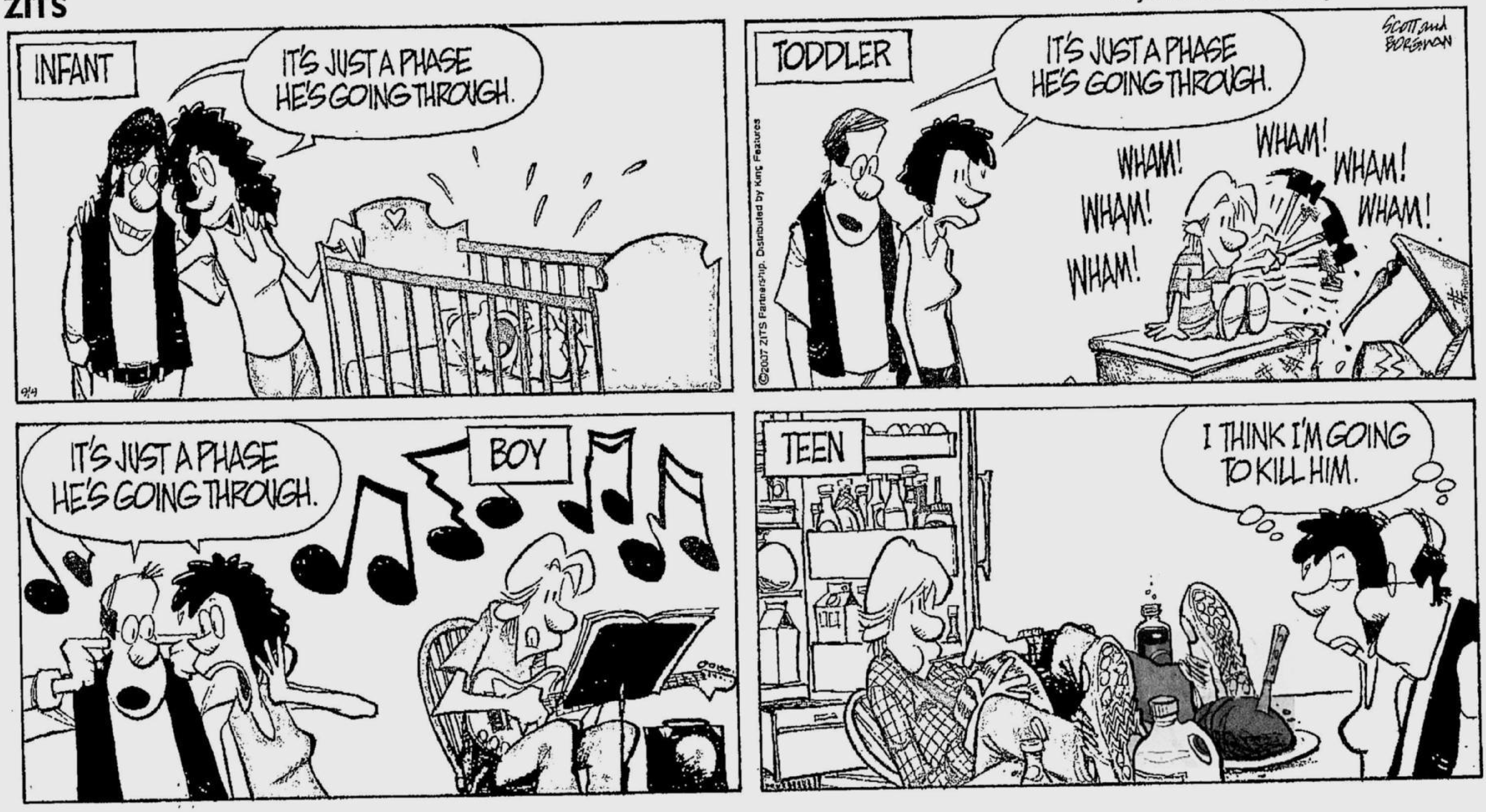
www.bucklescomic.com
7-9
TRIP!
WHINE!
NO, PAUL! STOP BEGGING!

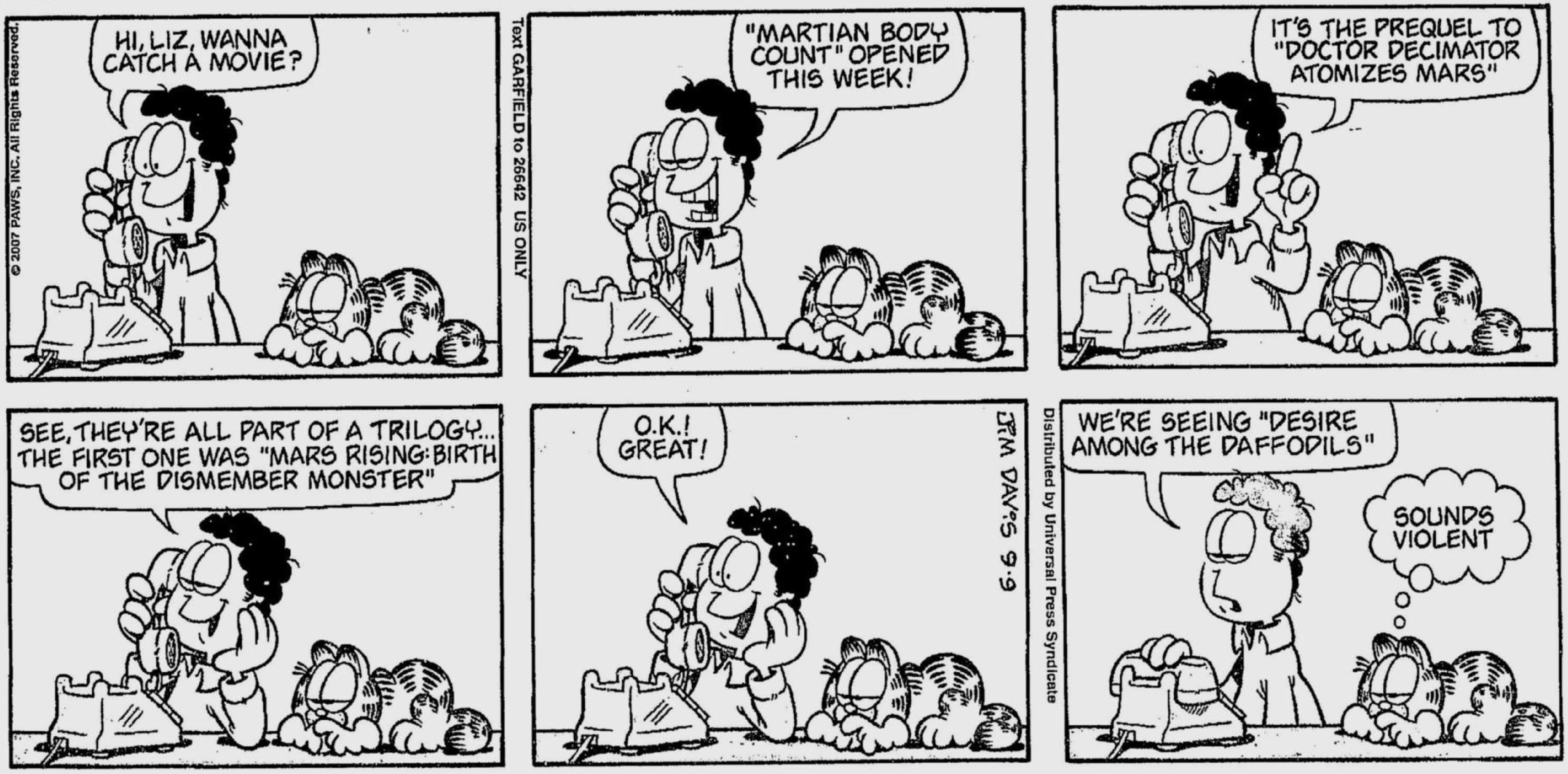
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


INFANT
IT'S JUST A PHASE HE'S GOING THROUGH.
9/9
TODDLER
IT'S JUST A PHASE HE'S GOING THROUGH.
SCOTT and BORGMAN
©2007 ZITS Partnership. Distributed by King Features
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
IT'S JUST A PHASE HE'S GOING THROUGH.
BOY
TEEN
I THINK I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


HI, LIZ, WANNA CATCH A MOVIE?
"MARTIAN BODY COUNT" OPENED THIS WEEK!
IT'S THE PREQUEL TO "DOCTOR DECIMATOR ATOMIZES MARS"
SEE, THEY'RE ALL PART OF A TRILOGY... THE FIRST ONE WAS "MARS RISING: BIRTH OF THE DISMEMBER MONSTER"
O.K.! GREAT!
JIM DAVIS 9-9
WE'RE SEEING "DESIRE AMONG THE DAFFODILS"
SOUNDS VIOLENT

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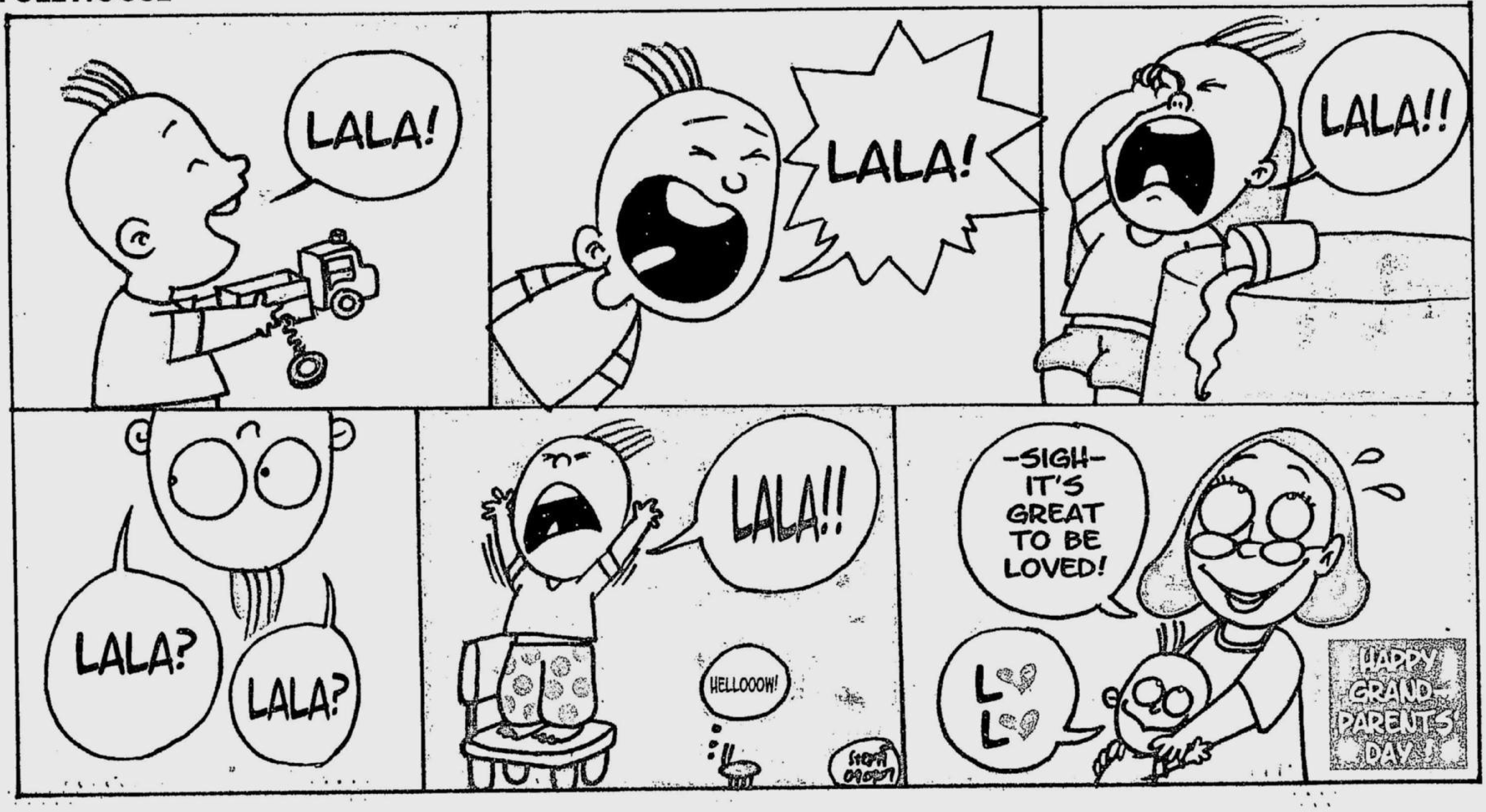
Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

FULL HOUSE

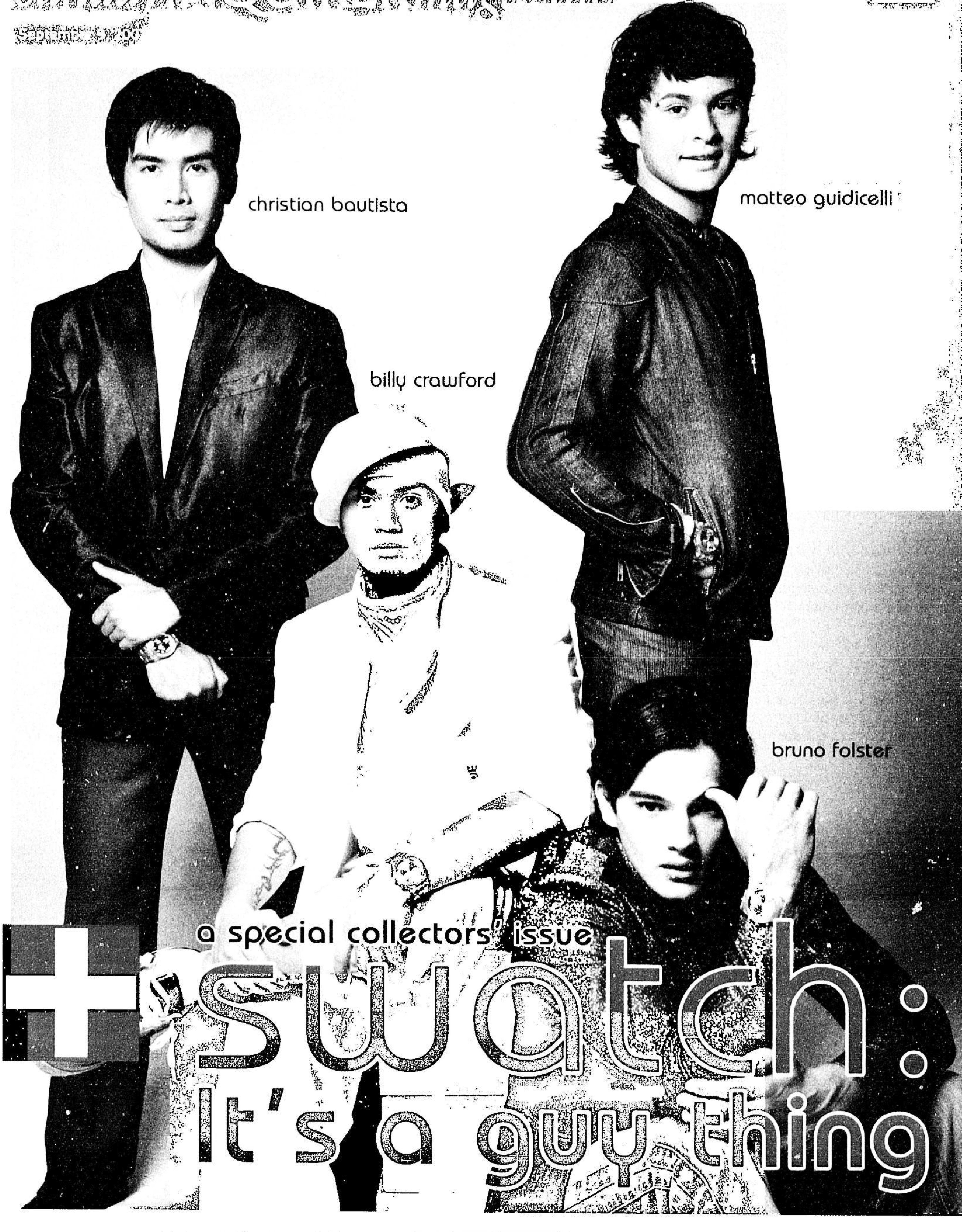
BY STEPH BRAVO


LALA!
LALA!
LALA!!
LALA?
LALA?
LALA!!
HELLOOOW!
STEPH 09-09-07
-SIGH- IT'S GREAT TO BE LOVED!
L♥
L♥
HAPPY GRAND-PARENTS DAY!

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

September [illegible]

FREE



christian bautista

billy crawford

matteo guidicelli

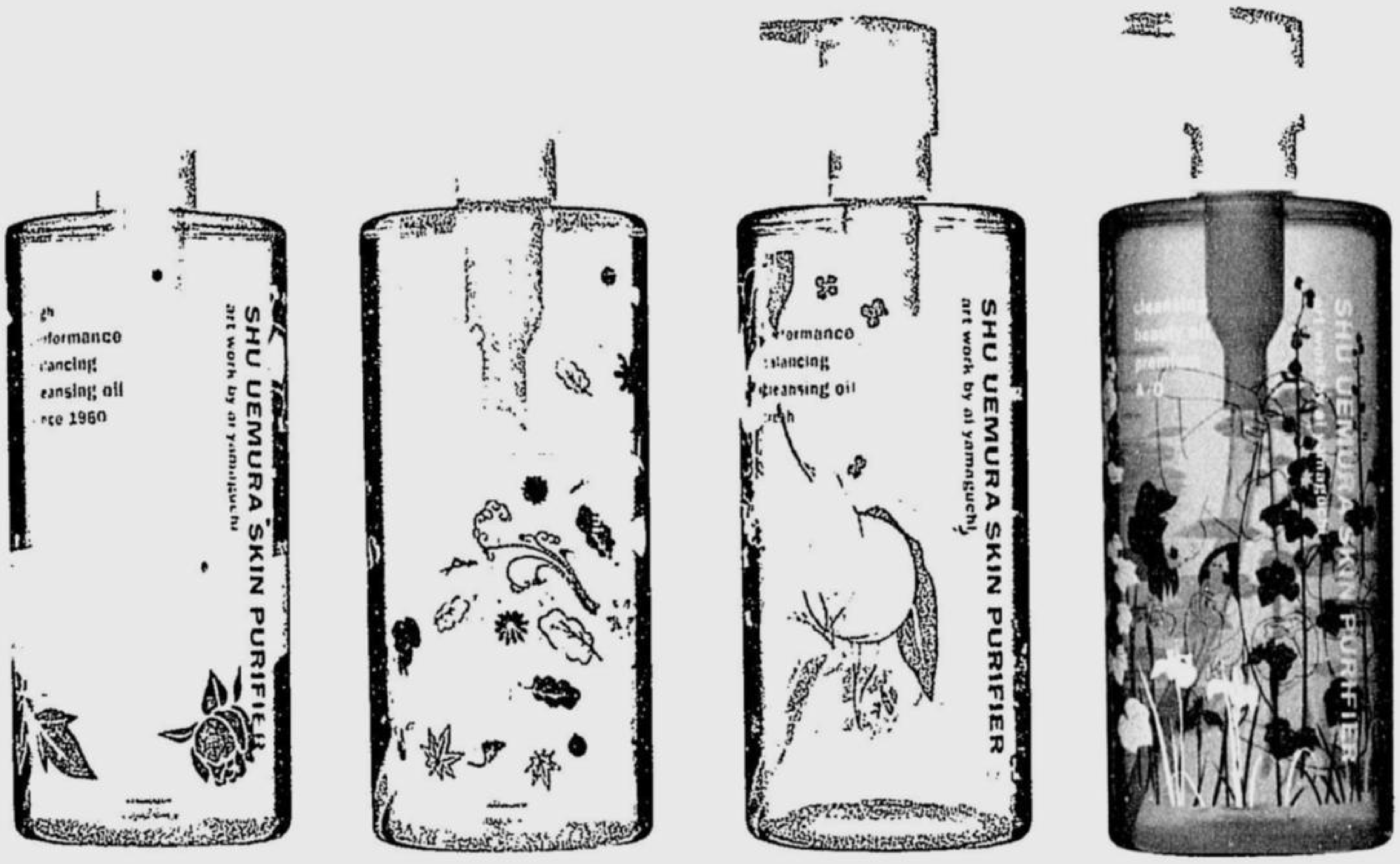
bruno folster

a special collectors' issue

swatch: it's a guy thing

Art in a bottle

These collectible bottles catch the passing of the seasons and the changing character of light, while making the most of your beauty routine



"Four Seasons—Cycle of Life" as interpreted by Yamaguchi on Shu Uemura bottled oils

KNOWN as the Japanese master of contemporary beauty, Shu Uemura has teamed up with several modern artists to create packaging that reflects his products' promise to bring out one's inner beauty.

The result is art in a bottle, limited edition cleaning oils that express their character through artistic designs by contemporary artists, among them Tokyo native Ai Yamaguchi for the 2005 bottle art, and American artist John Tremblay for the 2006 edition.

Uemura, who was brought up in the suburb of Tokyo, grew up in what became known as the Uemura Garden which his father built in the 1930s. Filled with Japanese trees and flowers, the garden allowed Uemura to enjoy the richness of the passing of the four seasons. It also firmed up his understanding of the relationship between nature and beauty.

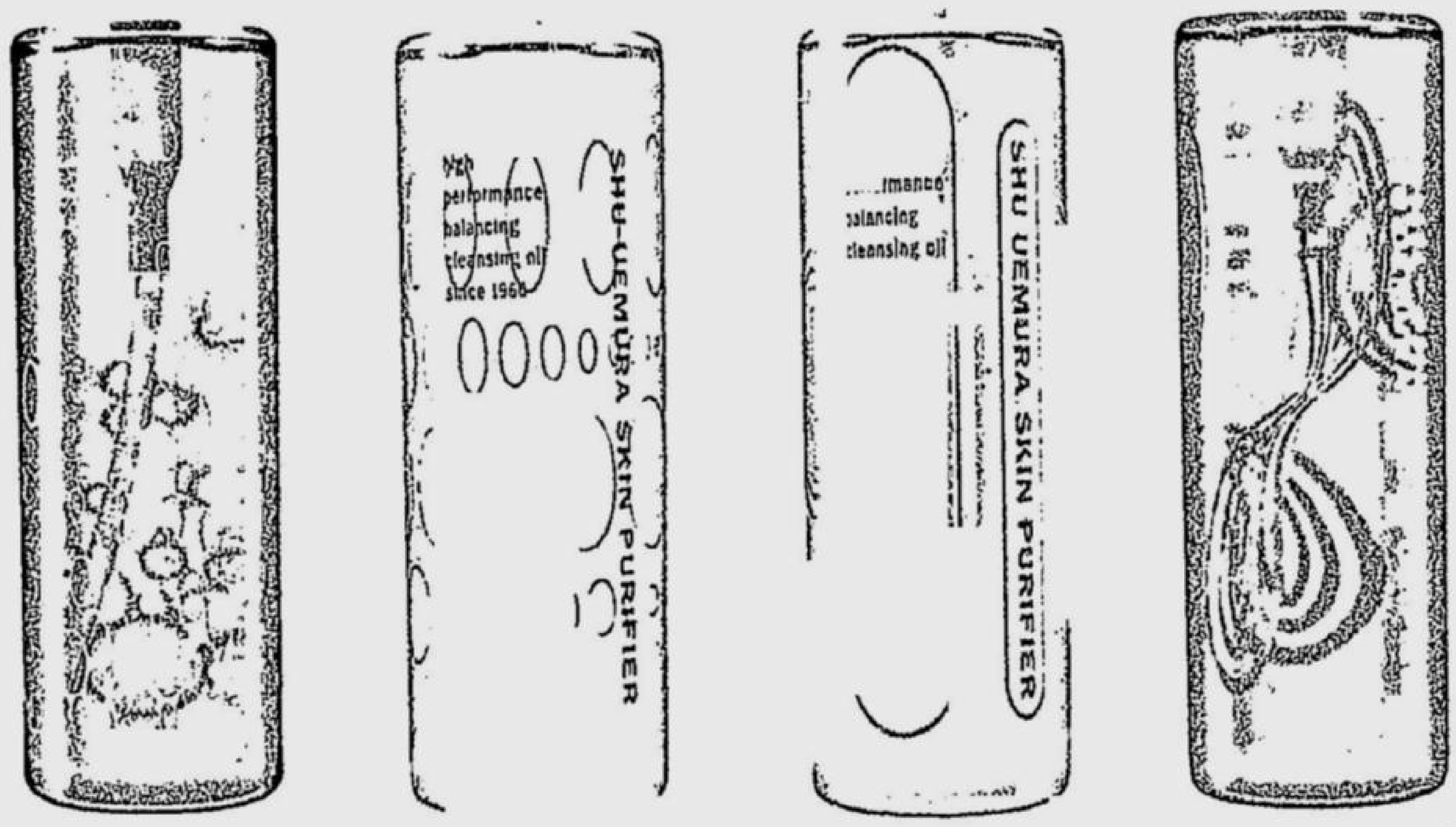
This early appreciation of Japan's changing seasons was something that Uemura shared with young artist Ai Yamaguchi, a textile art college graduate. Yamaguchi, who had once worked with Takashi Murakami—a designer for Vuitton bags—has an artistic style that has been described as a perfect mix of classical Japanese culture and contemporary animation.

Uemura's and Yamaguchi's shared sensitivity resulted in the design known as "Four Seasons—Cycles of Life" used in the 2005 Cleaning Oils Limited Edition. The designs draw together art, nature and science, with Yamaguchi painting on the collectible bottles the story of a girl undergoing life changes with the passing of the seasons.

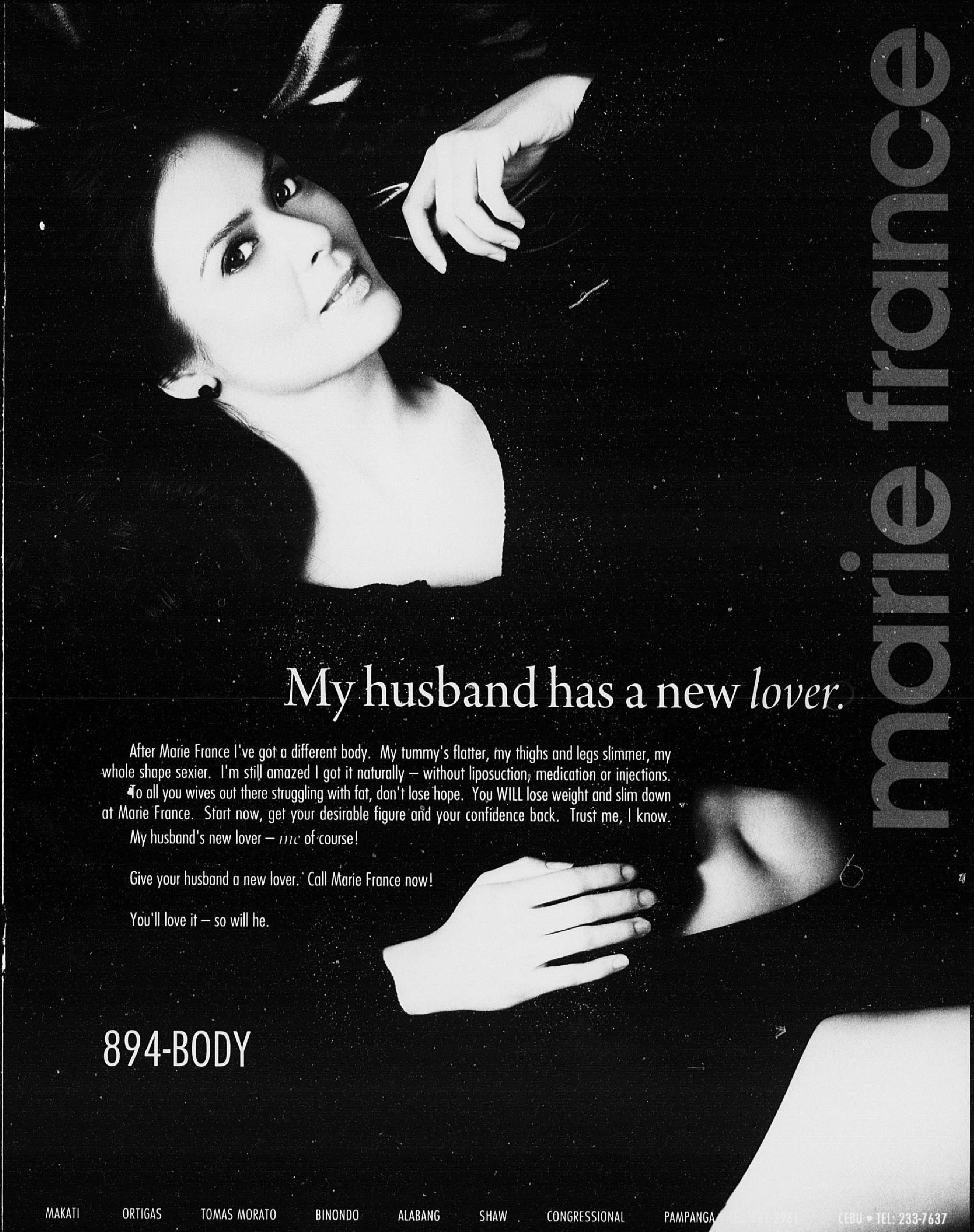
For the 2006 edition of the Cleaning Oils' bottled art, Uemura turned to American artist John Tremblay, whose design on the transparent bottles has transformed them into what the artist describes as "cylindrical sculptures." Known as "Optical Pleasure," the 2006 edition designs reflect Tremblay's painting style which has been called Pop-Op abstraction. The amorphous style includes references to graphic and textile designs, formalist paintings, cartooning, party decorations and stylized graffiti. Another reviewer has described Tremblay's art as "percolat(ing) with intellectual and visual energy."

And indeed, the designs on the collectible bottles show geometric patterns using metallic and fluorescent colors that constantly morph when light hits the transparent oil.

Being limited editions, the bottles have become collectible items, with the 2008 Edition focused on a fashion duo still to be named. The bottles may still be available at eBay and at Shu Uemura counters at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangri-La. •



John Tremblay's "Optical Pleasure" adorns the 2006 edition of Shu Uemura's cleaning oils



marie france

My husband has a new *lover.*

After Marie France I've got a different body. My tummy's flatter, my thighs and legs slimmer, my whole shape sexier. I'm still amazed I got it naturally – without liposuction, medication or injections. To all you wives out there struggling with fat, don't lose hope. You WILL lose weight and slim down at Marie France. Start now, get your desirable figure and your confidence back. Trust me, I know. My husband's new lover – *me* of course!

Give your husband a new lover. Call Marie France now!

You'll love it – so will he.

6

894-BODY

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA [illegible] 2781 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

By Niño Mark M. Sablan

Photographs by Tricia Gosingtian

Wacko Over Wigs

Dressed up as a videogame character, Alodia Gosiengfiao is definitely a head-turner in cosplay events even if she can't ever let her hair down

Perfectly Kawaii: Alodia wigs out over wigs.

IT'S not as if 19-year-old student Alodia Gosiengfiao is bald or prone to bad hair days. So why does this model and artist wear and collect wigs? Well, like most of her friends, Alodia is a huge fan of anime and is seriously into cosplay.

Cosplay, a fusion of the words "costume" and "role play," is a Japanese subculture that focuses on dressing up as characters from manga (comics), anime (animation), *tokusatsu* (special effects), video games and live-action Japanese film and television dramas.

It was actually a cosplay event that made Alodia start her wig collection. It all started in 2003, when she was cosplaying in an event called the C3 Convention and she came in as the videogame character Magic Gunner Rikku of "Final Fantasy X-2." Eye-catching in her colorful costume and blond wig, she even bagged third place in the People's Choice Award.

That cosplay event was followed by another and yet another, until the wigs—an indispensable part of Alodia's costumes—began multiplying as well. The collector currently has 25 wigs of varying lengths, colors and hairstyles. But acquisition is just half the story.

In collecting wigs, maintenance and storage are just as important, says Alodia, who has developed her own method of organizing her collection to keep them clean and safe.

"I wrap them in hair nets and then put them in boxes and zip-lock bags," she says of the wigs when they're not on her head. "All my wigs are placed together in a paper bag and then stored in a cabinet."

But while most collectors are almost always ready to flaunt their collectibles through photo albums, plastic clearbooks or even glass curio cases, Alodia would rather not display her stuff.

"Wigs easily get dirty from all the dust and moisture particles in the air," she explains. She's not being finicky, just careful about what is already a sizeable investment, P80,000 to date. She has shelled out P7,000 for a particular wig and she's not about to stop adding to her collection.

Alodia's unusual collection—and her penchant for wearing them at high-profile affairs—has made her a media darling. Not only do cosplay fans take her picture or ask for her autograph during conventions, some teen magazines have also started to feature her in their pages. As if that were not enough recognition, Alodia has also begun to conquer TV: she was recently chosen as the first-ever Kawaii Girl of "Mad Mad Fun," the latest lifestyle variety show of the youth channel Animax.

A first in the Philippines, the Kawaii ("cute" in Japanese) Girls segment of the original Animax program features the Metro's head-turning, ultra-trendy eye candies and their unique, interesting hobbies. With her diverse hobbies (among them digital and traditional painting, piano-playing, cosplaying, videogaming) and her fascination for wigs, Alodia is easily a

shoo-in as the perfect Kawaii Girl. In fact, the wigs got a lot of air time during the episode that featured her.

"The entire shoot was memorable," recounts Alodia. "It lasted almost five hours with no breaks in between. It was so tiring but we all enjoyed it. I was really honored and thankful to be featured, because I'm really a fan of Animax."

Well, this time, it seems, based on her exposure, the blog comments, and the awards she has garnered, Alodia too has a huge fan base among internet surfers, fellow cosplayers, anime lovers and videogamers—with or without her wigs. •

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Street Treat

Tasty and inexpensive Thai food is just around the street corner when you visit Soms in Makati

Authentic: Pad Thai.

IN a gathering at a chi-chi and very pricey restaurant, I once overheard a guest comment, "*Maganda dito. Iimbitahin ko si misis. Yayayain ko siya mag*-appetizer (This is a beautiful place. I'll take the missus here. I'll invite her for appetizers)." It was so funny I found myself laughing out loud. But it's painful, too, because what guy in his right mind would want to scrimp on someone he loves? (Okay, don't answer that. But you know what I mean ...) The point is, you shouldn't have to spend an arm and a leg for good food. They should rather be offered at commensurate, not murderous, prices. In fact, charging P1,000 for a meal should be considered an inhumane act against the Third World consumer (!) because it is just painful to see such delicious food presented to you at prices you can't afford.

And sometimes you just want to EAT. No need for air conditioning or expensive utensils or waiters who speak English. You just want good food—something filling, tasty and reasonably priced—period.

Enter Soms, a Thai restaurant on N. Garcia Street (formerly Reposo) in Makati. I had heard of this hole-in-the-wall maybe a year ago from designer and musician friends. At the time, Soms was just a garage *carinderia* on Alger Street parallel to Rockwell Drive. My friends raved about their find: "Cheap eats *sa* Rockwell *gillage* (*gilid ng* village)," they said, "Authentic Thai and dirt cheap, as in TWO pesos for extra rice!" Sure, the rice came with flies (flying about, not in the bowl of course), and it could be sweat-dripping hot if you came for lunch. But for that good a meal, at less than P100, it was totally worth it, they said.

Not one to jump on a food trend, however, I only tried it out a year later, when the more accessible Reposo branch opened. My friends and I were fans of Daddy Nicks back in the day when Soms took over the old grillery, I decided it was time to pay the rising star a visit.

A survey of the restaurant from the outside and immediately as you enter shows why the price for ambience has been slashed from the bill. They didn't change much from the old Daddy Nicks, except that they painted the walls orange and played with tiles and fake bricks. Hanging speakers are still wrapped in (now dusty) plastic, which reminded me of that funny e-mail that went around back in the day, about how to tell if you are Filipino (answer: if your sofa set still has its plastic covers "*para hindi madumihan*"). They have Christmas vines from maybe two Christmases ago. There is a Sacred Heart statue behind the bar, amusingly stationed beside San Miguel. During one visit, I noticed that the pinlight above our table was being held to the ceiling by nothing but really dusty tape that it literally could have fallen on my head. And—here's the most endearing kicker—during the hours when they're not airing "Eat Bulaga" (plus points for being Kapuso!), "Total Eclipse of the Heart" plays in the background! "Turn around, every now and then ..."

I notice that on each visit, practically all the tables are occupied—by locals and foreigners alike. Clearly, the karaoke music does not matter. No one comes to Soms expecting fancy fare. Instead, its loyal clientele and their friends come to this simple station for a taste of Thailand the way they had it when they were last there: on the street, at dirt cheap prices.

At Soms, the customer comes for the food, and the restaurant satisfies by offering dishes that both the experienced traveler and the backpacker would appreciate. The Tom Yam soup, a hot and sour shrimp soup that you must start with, hits the right note on sour, mellowed by the flavor of the lemon grass that they mix in to make it the right blend of Thai. The *Bagoong* Fried Rice, which you can enjoy as a meal on its own, oozes with flavor from the *bagoong* (shrimp paste), and comes with thin slices of green mango on the side, to balance the *bagoong*'s salty with the mango's sour, and it helps that they throw in a couple of pieces of meat and scrambled eggs as well, just like they do in Thailand. At only P98, I see this dish achieving legendary status in the Fave Cheap Eats List, joining the league of Cable Car Fried Rice ('80s babies, unite!).

You can skip the spring rolls (P92), which makes for just a regular, uneventful spring. Alternatively, the catfish salad (P150) is a fine way to whet your appetite before hitting your main dish. I had the catfish salad at People's Palace (P340) the following day to compare, and noted that aside from the size (the one at People's Palace has a more generous amount of the fish), presentation, and the general ambience of the Palace, the difference is not glaring at all. If you are picky, you will notice that the flavors in the Palace salad are more cohesive and heightened, and I gather this is from the sheer quality of the ingredients used, like the use of lime at the Palace versus calamansi at Soms. But like the difference between the *sinigang* of a five star hotel and that of your mother, just remember

(continued on page 13)

By Tony M. Maghirang

Beatle Juice

The long and winding road from Manila to the US brought Peter Valdes to a surfeit of blues that he relieved by listening to well-loved songs from his childhood. Listening to the Beatles anew was like meeting an old friend, he recalls

All you need: Pete Valdes and a bed full of his beloved Beatles albums

PETER Valdes shuttles regularly between San Diego, California and Makati City in the Philippines in the course of managing two software companies where he sits as chief executive. It's also a route that echoes his ear-popping obsession: collecting as many items connected with the Beatles as he can.

After graduating from the UP College of Engineering in the mid-'70s, Pete has made moving between two worlds a way of life. He has personal and professional attachments worth keeping, both in his motherland and in his adopted country.

Pete, however, remembers a time during graduate school in New York when he did not have the luxury of keeping close contact with family and friends in the Philippines. The expatriate blues that settled in when he thought of home and hearth were unbearable. To relieve his homesickness, he'd buy records by artists he had listened to while growing up in the Philippines.

Recalls Pete: "The music evoked memories of happy times when I was younger. There were moments in a song when I'd fondly remember family and friends back home. That was enough to make my day."

The very first record he purchased as a kid was the Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night." It was also the first album he bought in New York to stave off loneliness. The fond memories brought out by that Beatles album kick-started a passion for the Fab Four that went beyond mere appreciation of their music. Pete began collecting everything that had to do with the Beatles: records from Liverpool, films and books on them.

His Beatles collection includes over 1,000 vinyl LPs, 45 rpms, and CDs; about 500 VHS and DVD movies, and some 500 books. His Beatles titles include all those released on Capitol, EMI/Parlophone, Apple, Apple/Capitol, and Mobile Fidelity, as well as rare and obscure albums or outtakes from Atco, Audio Rarities, AudioFidelity, Backstage, Cicadelic, Clarion, Hall of Music, Ling song, and Metro.

Pete has also developed his very own database program to track his music and video collection. Since he is able to access the database anywhere in the world through his palmtop, he can readily check if he already has a copy of anything he might consider buying. He does concede, however, that a better copy of a collectible is always welcome.

Every Beatles album listed and described in the 424-page "The Complete Beatles Discography" by J. Russell, a definitive resource according to amazon.com, is part of his collection. Aside from commercial releases, he has studio outtakes, versions by other artists, including those done by Pinoy cover bands like the Dynasouls, and a copy of the same album released in Japan, Germany and France for their one of a kind packaging. He laments that Philippine-made vinyl copies have shoddy packaging, although a good copy of a Beatles album from the '60s can fetch up to $250 on eBay.

Pete has both the vinyl and CD versions of all Beatles studio albums. His passion extends to Lennon-McCartney compositions given to other artists. Offhand, these include "World Without Love" for Peter and Gordon and "I Wanna Be Your Man" for the Rolling Stones. He even collects outputs from the solo careers of the former Beatles and those of their children, although only John Lennon's son, Julian, has recorded several albums.

"Most collectors focus on collectibles from an artist," he says. "I complete the entire catalog instead. Gaps in my collection of an artist's releases encourage me to seek out the missing records."

Pete started putting together his Beatles collection in 1980. For the past 20 years, he has been regularly consulting Goldmine Album Price Guide, the chief reference of record collectors, the Internet, particularly eBay, and record conventions in America. He goes on regular buying binges in L.A.,

(continued on page 14)

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by Ryan Lim

All-Star Collector

Most everyone would love to be in her shoes: as celebrity endorser of Converse Chuck Taylors, TV host Bianca Gonzalez gets first dibs on the latest styles of these sneakers that she's been collecting just for kicks

Walk-out closet: Bianca and her foot soldiers

THAT unmistakable twinkle in Bianca Gonzalez' eye is proof positive that the pretty model and TV host is very much in love. For the last five years, she has been searching high and low, looking for the perfect match—the right pair of Converse Chuck Taylor All-Stars.

The 24-year-old Bianca, who hosts "Y Speak" on Studio 23 and "Entertainment Live" on ABS-CBN 2, bought her first pair of Chuck Taylor sneakers during her sophomore year at the Ateneo. "All you do in school is walk around from building to building," she says. "And I found my Chucks to be so comfortable and so cute I ended up buying them in another color, then another style, then another, and another."

Perhaps the most famous sneakers in the world, the Chuck Taylor All-Stars are the signature products of Converse. The canvas-and-rubber shoes were first manufactured in 1917 and named after barnstorming cage legend Charles "Chuck" Taylor. After first becoming the definitive basketball footwear for years, Chuck Taylors, better known in the past as "All-Stars" and now affectionately as "Chucks," became fashionable because of the myriad patterns, styles and colors they are available in. It has become a perennial best-seller for Converse (now owned by athletics giant Nike).

It's quite a feat for the feet that Bianca has acquired quite an impressive stash—65 pairs, all high tops. "Since my brother moved abroad, I've turned his room into my walk-in closet," she laughs. Indeed, the precious Chucks are lined up on racks like museum displays.

And what is Bianca's favorite pair? "My limited peace edition John Lennon Chuck Taylor." The centerpiece of her metatarsal menagerie, the shoes bear a Yoko Ono-drawn caricature of the late Beatle, carrying the indelible lyrics "Imagine all the people/ living life in Peace" on the upper, with "peace" on the laces. "The Beatles are my favorite," Bianca explains proudly.

Bianca had desired that particular model for quite a while. "I was almost scared that I wouldn't get it, because it was a limited-edition pair," she says. She actually saw it abroad and was overjoyed to find that her friends at Converse could get it for her. It pays, after all, to be an endorser of Converse, as this connection helped her kick-start her hobby. "That has helped a lot, lot, lot with my forming this collection," she gushes. "The majority of the pairs were given by Converse." It was highly serendipitous that Converse began sponsoring Bianca after her then-15 pairs were featured in a magazine.

Beyond the relative rarity of certain designs, Bianca also treasures pairs given by loved ones. "I have sooo many pairs that I consider my favorites, mostly because of their sentimental value," she explains. Eventually, people ask whether she wears all those shoes. "Oh wow, I've only used like half the number of Chucks I have," she answers truthfully. "The rest are still in boxes, with tags on, and a lot I've used only once." Much as the Chucks are her prize catch, Bianca also uses them in acts of kindness: "I've actually given away a number of pairs, to different groups or people who solicit for charity," she says.

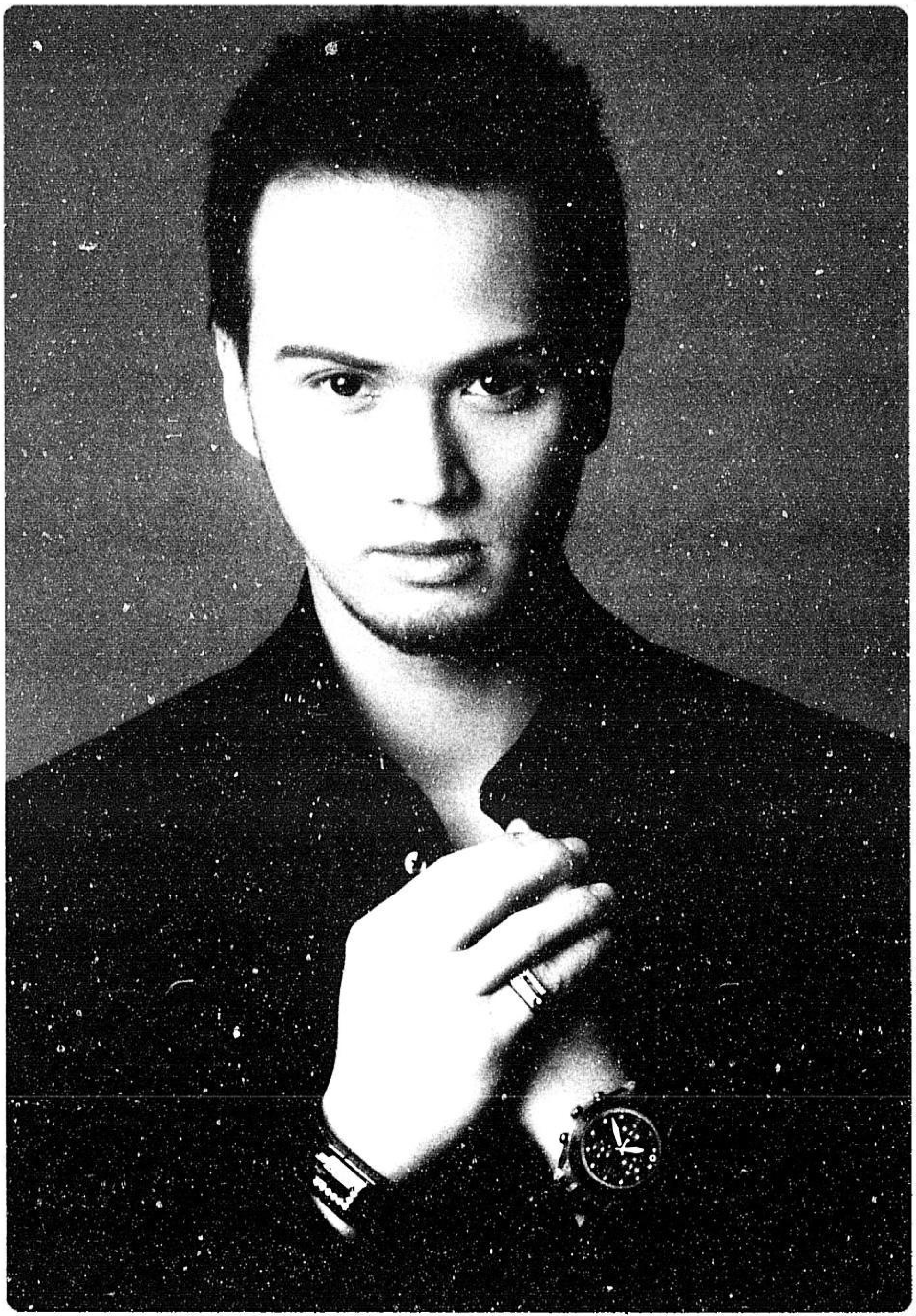
The shoes usually cost "anywhere from

(continued on page 12)

swatch: It's a guy thing

(just ask the girls!)

10 things you should know about guys who collect Swatch watches



BILLY CRAWFORD The Filipino-American singer, songwriter, producer, actor and dancer loves fashion, shopping and dressing up. The perfect Swatch for him is the Full Blooded Night and Night Mood.

If anything, Billy Crawford, Matteo Guidicelli, Bruno Folster and Christian Bautista all know the value of time. Swatch's male endorsers were chosen for their good looks, good hearts, loads of talent, sharp fashion sense and their trendsetter identities. Incredibly busy because of the demands of their red-hot careers, they know how important it is to be on time. No wonder they choose Swatch chronographs which are accurate to the tenth of a second. The timepieces are tough as well, and can hold their own against other luxury watches, making them a favorite collector's item among people of discriminating taste.

Here are 10 more things you should know about guys who collect Swatch watches:

BRUNO FOLSTER has modeled for Prada and Louis Vuitton and has appeared on the cover of Wallpaper. Born to an Italian father and a Brazilian-German mother, Bruno nonetheless loves the Philippines after having come here for a brief holiday last year. He is wearing Swatch Indian Summer.

1. They are particular about quality.

Swatch is Swiss-made and its quality designation is protected by a law that covers watches containing mechanisms assembled, installed, started, regulated and controlled in Switzerland. This is not the case for other timepieces made elsewhere in the world. Is it any wonder that Swiss-made watches continue to carry a lot of prestige?

It's a guy thing

(just ask the girls!)

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Night M

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

2. They appreciate low maintenance and rugged usage.
Swatch is shockproof and continues to operate even after being dropped from a height of one meter onto hardwood. It is also water resistant.

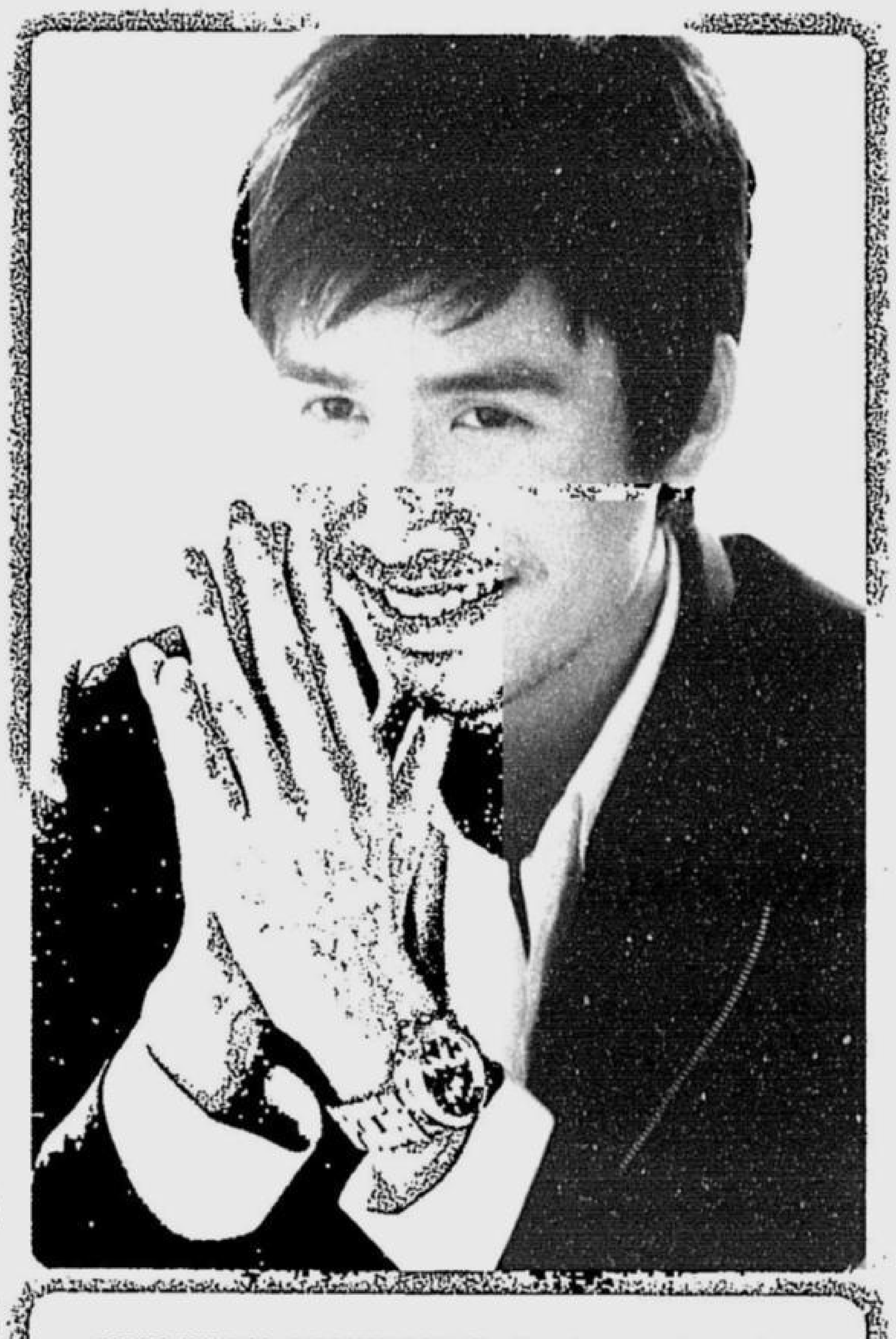
3. They choose Swatch because they're techies.
Swatch is high-tech. Think Swatch Skin, which is the thinnest plastic Swatch ever at 3.9mm.

4.They're street smart.
Swatch is based on the idea that a wristwatch of outstanding quality should appeal to people aged 8 to 80. That's why Swatch provides an accessory that's in touch with the widest possible variety of lifestyles.

5. They like variety and enjoy having different kinds of watches.
Swatch is as versatile as everyday life and is perfectly suited to any mood, outfit or occasion.

6. They appreciate art as a mix of technology and design.
The list of artists who have designed Swatch watches ranges from couture designers like Vivienne Westwood and Christian Lacroix, to movie directors Akira Kurosawa and Pedro Almodovar, as well as photographers Annie Leibovitz and Jaime Zobel.

Beginning 2008, in time for the Beijing Olympics, the Swatch Art Peace Hotel in Shanghai's Bund area will welcome artists from all over the world to three floors of the hotel that will be transformed into bedrooms and ateliers. Imagine living free of charge for six months in what is probably the best location in China. Yup, compliments of Swatch, the art on your wrist that might as well be the world's smallest canvas.



CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA A Cavite native, this singer is big here and in Indonesia and Malaysia. This true-blue Pinoy wears the Full Blooded Silver chrono.

MATTEO GUIDICELLI This dynamic 12th grader at Brent International School is a multi-awarded Karting champion who has also dabbled in acting. The Filipino-Italian teen, who's wearing the Windfall from the Core Collection, plans to pursue his love for film when he goes to the United States for college.

7. They like to share.
Men's Swatch watches can be found on the wrist of a lot of girls, too.

8. They like girls who collect Swatch watches, too.

9. They are interested in people who wear Swatch.
They include Diego del Valle of Tod's, Jack Heuer of Tag Heuer, Andrea Casiraghi of Monaco, PM Tony Blair of Britain, etc. The list keeps ticking.

10. They go with winners.
After all, Swatch is part of the Swatch group which makes Omega, Blancpain, Breguet, Glashütte, Rado, Tissot, Longines, among others.

By Eric S. Caruncho

Hey Ho, Let's Go G.I. Joe!

Issued before the Vietnam war tarnished the image of the American soldier, G.I. Joe action figures represented the force of good against evil. Today, Iraq and the Al Qaeda have blurred the lines somewhat, but a faithful legion of grownup fans have kept the Real American Hero battle-ready at all times

Roger Carpio

Ten hut!: Edwin Ruiz at ease with his G.I. Joe army

THE ultimate boy toy?

No, not Katrina Halili... G.I. Joe! The only toy that, according to one wit, keeps the world safe for American interests. And if you find the idea of boys playing with dolls kind of creepy, the first thing you must remember is: they're not dolls, they're *action figures*.

The plastic soldier has been around in various incarnations and configurations since 1964, when the Hasbro toy company, in response to rival Mattel's success with Barbie, decided to explore a heretofore untapped market for dolls—boys. Correctly assuming that parents would never buy "dolls" for their little boys, the company coined the term "action figure," and a cult was born.

G.I. Joe took its name from the World War II-era cartoon figure of the American soldier, still resonant with patriotic emotions and international goodwill in 1964. Vietnam would change all that in a few years, but by then G.I. Joe had become a resounding success. The first-generation G.I. Joes were ultra-realistic 12-inch soldiers, with real hair, detailed uniforms and weapons. Taking a page from the Barbie playbook, the company figured that accessorizing was a large part of the line's appeal, and it devised ingenious weapons, vehicles, uniforms, and of course enemies to keep the little gearheads pumped.

America post-Vietnam had soured on war, however, and to keep up with the mood of the time, the company quickly reconfigured G.I. Joe into an "Adventure Team" of super spies that battled "evil" in general, in the person of a growing cast of super-villains. In the coming years, the line was retooled to keep up with trends: they became the "Defenders" one year, and "Superjoe" the next. The company also devised innovations like the "Eagle Eye" that allowed players to direct Joe's stern gaze, and the famous "Kung Fu Grip" that allowed the action figure to grasp his latest weapon.

By the late 1970s and 1980s, however, G.I. Joe sales had dipped alarmingly and a drastic retooling resulted in a downsizing of the foot-tall figures to 3 and ¾ inches, to match the size of the best-selling Star Wars toys. The so-called "Real American Hero" line of 1982 is the dividing line for collectors between "vintage" Joes and "new" Joes, although the company would reissue the 12-inch figures on a limited basis for collectors, and Joe himself would intermittently grow and shrink back as market forces demanded.

Today, G.I. Joe is a venerable veteran of the toy wars. Marvel superhero action figures, Star Wars figures and, significantly, anime figures have stolen a lot of his thunder, and his is a shrinking domain in the annual toy conventions.
But the cult of Joe is as strong as ever. Collectors' clubs abound all over the world. In the Philippines, the Manila G.I. Joe Collectors Circle (e-mail: manilajoe@hotmail.com) is a club for collectors of the vintage G.I. Joe figures, but there are informal groupings and internet forums for fans of the new series as well.

Edwin Andres Ruiz, a 28-year-old entrepreneur, represents the new generation of G.I. Joe fans, having grown up on the Real American Hero series and the 1980s cartoon show. He received his first G.I. Joe, Duke, when he was 6, and began collecting the figures at age 10, inspired by an uncle's extensive collection of Matchbox cars.

"I used to watch the cartoons, and I asked my parents to buy me the toys at the supermarket," he recalls. "I guess they appealed to me because I come from a military family. My grandfather was a colonel in the Philippine Constabulary, and an uncle was a captain. I liked the fact that their weapons were small but detailed and sophisticated. My interest in G.I. Joe also inspired me to take up taekwondo, *arnis* and aikido."

College rekindled Ruiz's interest in the figures when his best friend got into collecting Star Wars figures, and the two would raid the toy stores in Greenhills together. At the time, he said, G.I. Joes retailed at around P350, but occasional sales brought the price down to an affordable P150 per.

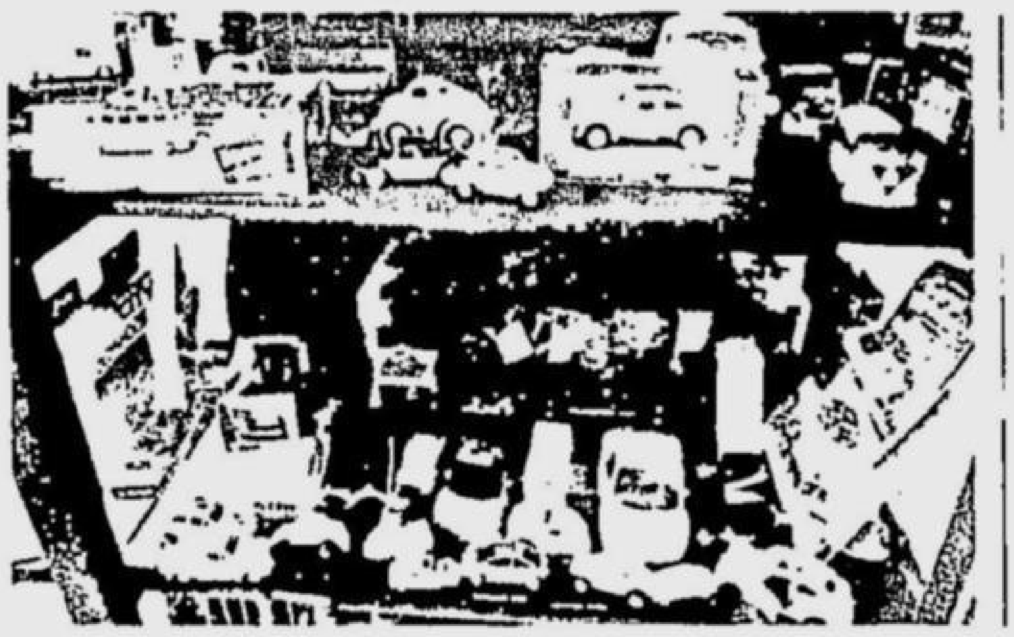
(continued on page 12)

By Claire Agbayani
Photographs by Romy Homillada

A Different Kind of Beetlemania

He used to drive a green beetle on his defunct TV show, but that's not why TV comic Tado collects miniature Volkswagens

Bitten by the love bug: Tado with his miniature beetles



PEOPLE know him as the TV comic Tado, half of the Strangebrew duo, who used to probe city nooks and crevices and generally drive people nuts with their clueless questions.

But there's a serious side to this radio, TV and film personality who, off camera, is better known as Arvin Jimenez. Behind the zany image is a serious collector of miniature beetles, Volkswagen cars that he fondly calls "*kotseng kuba*" (hunchback cars).

In fact, Tado drives a green beetle, what he calls his working car, which shouldn't be confused with the trusty Volkswagen that he and former Strangebrew host Angel (a.k.a. "Erning") used to drive on their defunct show.

Explaining away his obsession for miniature VWs, Tado quips with characteristic humor: "*Isang oto lang ang kasya sa garahe ko. Eh gusto ko marami, kaya kahit laruan, pwede na rin*! (Only one car can fit into my garage. But I want to have a lot more, so even toys will do)."

Tado's collection of about 200 miniature beetles now greets friends and guests from behind an antique glass display case, although there are more models that he keeps in his room: "For my eyes only," he says. At night, instead of counting sheep, he stares at these hot wheels until he falls asleep.

To beef up his collection, Tado frequents the malls and toy shops, among them Toy Kingdom, United Toys and Toys 'R Us. If you have a lot of money, he adds, Greenhills is the place to go. "It has a lot of the collectible items, but they can be pretty expensive."

To save money while indulging his interest, Tado goes to monthly swap meets organized by the Die Cast Car Collectors of the Philippines (DCPH). "The beetles are priced lower at these meets and the collectors are friendly. We exchange toys. Those who have excess stocks sell them to other collectors."

Miniature toy cars sell from a low of P250, to a high of P600 to P2000 each, depending on how rare the model is. Not that he's very discriminating when it comes to his collection, Tado admits. "The brand, the make and the model don't matter much to me, as long as it's a hunchback car."

Like other collectors, he has no set rules for buying more stuff. "I just keep buying and buying," he says. As a seller, however, he can get quite cunning, even capricious, Tado says half in jest. "When the buyer becomes too persistent and annoying and I can see that he really wants my toy, I jack up the price, *yung presyong di binebenta*. What I normally sell for, say P250, goes up to P1,500."

But there's more to Tado's collection than plain acquisition. He gets energized just looking at and handling his collection, he confides. "Maybe because I come from a working class family and my parents didn't buy me too many toys when I was a child. So instead of playing with my miniature cars, I often just stare at them. I feel good every time I do that. I'm happy just fixing my collection. In fact, I know when somebody else has touched them. So my daughters (Leidulataja, Diosa and Indi) know that they cannot touch my toys. But I do open some that we can play with as a family."

Indeed, Tado's childhood is the stuff of *telenovelas*. Born during a brownout in a village near the sea in Baybay, Leyte, Tado learned to swim before he could even walk. Childhood meant shuttling from Leyte to Nueva Ecija to Pasay, back to Leyte and then Pasay, depending on which of his feuding parents wanted to have custody of him.

To make ends meet, Tado worked both on and off camera—as an extra with no speaking lines or *taong grasa* (homeless bum), and as utility boy, production designer, and assistant director.

(continued on page 13)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

2			3		4	5		7
	1			9			6	
4								
7								4
	6						5	
8								2
								3
	4			7			9	
3		5	9		2			6

Difficulty Level ★★★★☆

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9/09

Answer to previous puzzle

7	3	8	6	9	5	4	2	1
2	4	5	8	1	3	6	9	7
6	1	9	4	2	7	5	3	8
8	5	1	3	6	2	7	4	9
9	7	2	1	4	8	3	5	6
4	6	3	7	5	9	8	1	2
5	8	6	2	3	1	9	7	4
1	9	7	5	8	4	2	6	3
3	2	4	9	7	6	1	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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All-Star Collector (from page 7)

Imagine: The limited edition John Lennon pair is her favorite

P1,600 to P2,200 and above, depending on how fancy the pair is," Bianca says, admitting it can be a rather pricey item to collect. Again, her being a Converse endorser comes in handy. "They do send me the latest designs," she says. "And I'm so thankful!"

Like any serious accumulator, Bianca values the chase, something to pursue away from the cameras. "I'm not a completist really," she says. "I just like getting unique pairs." These items include the winter edition pair she got in Geneva, Switzerland. "It sounds so *sosyal* and it was so *mahal* (expensive), but I just knew I had to add it to my collection," she says, wide-eyed.

She has so many shoes that space for her sole safari is now in seriously short supply. " I actually don't know where else I can put my Chucks," Bianca says, recalling that her mom used to give her the eye whenever she came home with a new pair of Chucks. "But she eventually surrendered to the fact that I was starting to collect them," Bianca says. Soon to be seen hosting October's "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Edition 2," Bianca remains enthused and enthralled by her Chuck Taylor collection. "I'll see where this collection goes," she says. "I never saw myself as the collector type, because I'm really a *kuripot* (tightwad) person, but it did happen, so I guess I'll just see what happens in the coming years."

All this could only mean that Bianca Gonzalez is intent on keeping the kicks coming. •

Hey Ho, Let's Go G.I. Joe! (from page 10)

Ruiz even managed to sidestep the considerable "geek" image associated with toy collecting.

"In college, our friends would tease us, '*Ano ba kayo, ang tanda-tanda n'yo na, laruan pa rin ang binibili n'yo!*' (Hey, aren't you too old to be buying toys?)," he recalls. "But when they saw my collection, they began to appreciate it as well, and to my surprise, a number of them eventually started their own collections, even after graduation."

For his part, after completing his Entrepreneurial Management course at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Ruiz decided to name the family construction company Gridiron—after a G.I. Joe character, naturally.

Today, although he hasn't joined any of the collectors clubs, Ruiz regularly surfs the forums in search of new items or just to keep updated on trends. At the moment, his collection is nearing the 200-mark, which is just about 20 per cent of the total number of 3 and ¾ inch figures issued so far. He also collects the "Sigma 6" 8-inch series, which runs as high as P1,000 per, depending on the packaging. He has also succumbed to the collector's habit of buying two of each desirable item: one to display and another to squirrel away in mint condition for the future, when rarity can jack up its price several times.

Ruiz notes that G.I. Joe has lost much of its popularity among kids now that the cartoon series no longer airs. Perhaps the harsh realities of Iraq and the Al Qaeda have an effect, just as Vietnam did. "High-schoolers now don't even know who G.I. Joe is," he says.

But knowing that Joe has seen good times and bad throughout his 40-plus years, and survived, keeps Ruiz and his fellow G.I. Joe enthusiasts "*semper fi.*"

Well, boys will be boys. •

Street Treat (from page 5)

Satisfying: *Bagoong* fried rice

that when it comes down to it, for the most part, momma knows best.

Especially if your momma is an authentic Thai chef whose parents used to cook for the king of Thailand, selected because of the way they made their award-winning chili sauces. Well, he's not a momma but owner and chef Parinya Pattamadilok is a Thai national and used to be chef at Sukhothai. This probably explains why their curries at Soms are remarkable. The menu offers a stoplight of curries (red, yellow and green) in descending levels of spice. These go for just P102, but if you add any of the meats (written as "B, P, C, S" on the menu for beef, pork, chicken or shrimp), it comes up to P150. (Take note of this because the fact that there's an additional P48 is not written on the menu.) I had a beef green curry that I thoroughly enjoyed. The meat was tender and it was just mildly spicy. Perfect with plain white rice. The men might want two full bowls and the red curry instead of the green.

Not as impressive, though, was one of the most basic of Thai streetfoods: the Pad Thai. Although it is a best value meal, going at just P102, with an additional P48 for the meats, and twice the size of Pad Thai at more expensive restaurants, this one was more mellow in bite although it contained the basic ingredients a Pad Thai must have, such as ground nuts, eggs, tofu, and bean sprouts. It is also a little more on the oily side, compared to the slightly drier Pad Thai that you might be used to. But at just a little over P100, it's a really good deal. I'm almost convinced that to demand any more might be considered inhumane treatment of the chef and restaurateur.

In between bites, don't forget to take a sip of their Thai tea, milky but light. It's only P30, very refreshing and distinctly flavored. I really enjoyed it, which is quite impressive because I've never really been a fan of milk tea!

After visiting a couple of times, I understand now why Soms has become such a hit with artists and travelers. At Soms, it's not about how you look but about who you are. It brings it back to basics. Never mind that the lights might fall into your *Bagoong* Rice. Never mind that periwinkle is hideous with peach (you'll know what I mean when you see the walls). What's important is that the *bagoong* rice is hugely satisfying. And that anyone, not just the well-heeled, can have a taste of it! •

Soms. 1766 N. Garcia cor. Milagros Streets, Makati (between JP Rizal and Kalayaan). Take out available at 729-7489 or 0927-4406391. Attire: Casual / Come as you are. Atmosphere: Relaxed. Parking: Difficult. Handicapped: Ground floor level accessibility.

A Different Kind of Beetlemania (from page 11)

Obsessed: Tado with his bug collection, big and small

Memories of his hungry days don't deter him from collecting miniature beetles, however. Asked if there are any drawbacks to being a collector, Tado deadpans: "I have to forego eating decent food every time I buy toys."

The humor is evident as well when he talks about Lei, his better half, who gets both annoyed and jealous of his toys, Tado claims. "*Kasi, mas madalas ko pa raw haplusin ang laruan kesa sa kanya*" (Because she says I touch the toys more often than her)." •

Check out http://www.dcph.info for more info on toy car collections. For more of Tado, check out this DJ along with Angel and Ramon from 9 p.m. till midnight, Mondays through Thursdays on 99.5 Hit FM.

Figure it out

www.arteauto.com

Over 500: Number of dolls in the Marikina City doll museum

Over 300: Number of *belens* (nativity scenes) in the Marikina City *belen* museum

14: Age of Alyssah Alcala, whose stamp collections won in the recent National Topical Stamp Show at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving, Texas, USA in June 2007.

P80-P250: Price range of a 1:64 scale die-cast car model in 2006

P300-P3,000: Price range of larger die-cast car models in 2006

7,000: Number of model cars Sergio Goldvarg has collected since 1962. Goldvarg is the Guinness World Record holder for largest collection of model cars.

25,630: Number of keychains owned by Emilio Florin, Guinness World Record holder for largest collection of keychains

2,520: Number of penguin figurines in the collection of Birgit Berends, Guinness World Record holder for largest collection of penguin figurines

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Guinness World Records official website

Beatle Juice (from page 6)

Packed: Pete's showcase of Beatles albums

"Very Together" fanned rumors of McCartney's demise

The Beatles
Yesterday
And Today

Recalled: The Butcher album

One of the Beatles' Christmas albums released between 1963 and 1969

but admits that so far he hasn't been fortunate enough to pick up any rarities in garage sales.

In the mid-1990s, Pete established a start-up software company which IBM acquired in a multi-million dollar buyout. He hints that having money to burn is a key factor in building a huge collection.

But, he continues, "You may have the money to throw around, but unless you know where to look, it hardly matters. The thrill is in the hunt, and I have sometimes been lucky to find exactly what I'm looking for in the most unlikely sources."

He isn't about to lay claim to being the Beatles collector with the mostest, but he's sure that he's among the rare few who have an extensive collection on the Fab Four.

Among his rare finds are:

- **Very Together**. Released in 1969 by Polydor Records in Canada, this rare LP came out at the time when rumors swirled about Paul McCartney's untimely demise. On the cover, one of the four candles is snuffed out. Mint copy sells upwards of $100.

- **Butcher Album**. Capitol printed thousands of copies of the album but recalled all of them from distributors afterwards. The reason? The cover features the Beatles in butcher's smocks, bloodied with slabs of raw beef, and with mangled dolls scattered in the background.

- **Unsurpassed Masters**. Seven volumes of outtakes, alternate takes and mixes released by Yellow Dog, which don't appear anywhere else. The hurdle is in collecting all seven collections.

- **Christmas Album**. The Fab Four recorded carols, skits and jokes each year between 1963 and 1969, which were given out on a 7" flexi disc for free to British fans. Apple Records released a compilation of all seven discs, but in the wake of the band's break-up in 1969, no further official releases have been made.

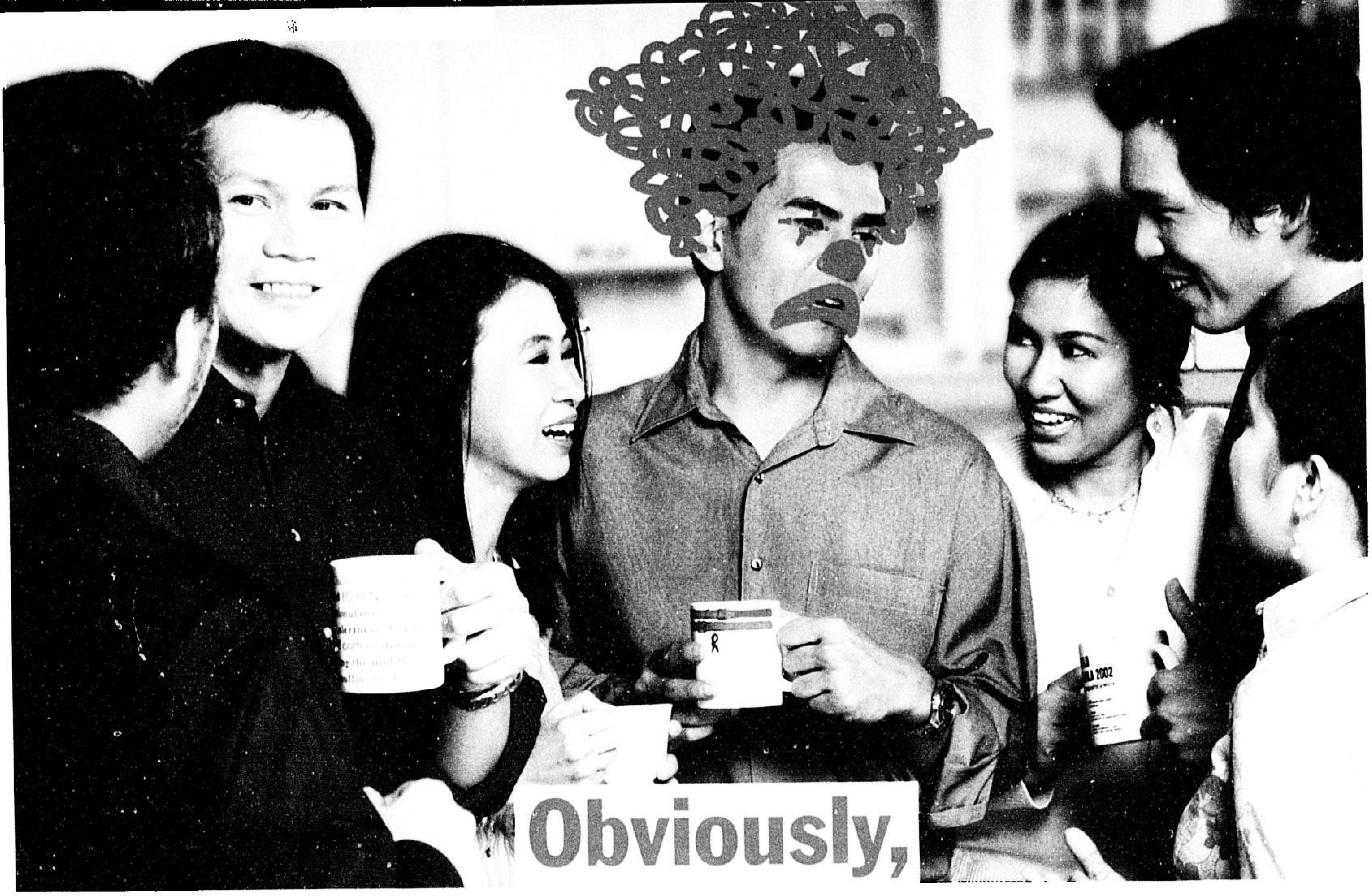
Other prized acquisitions are the mono version of "A Hard Day's Night" soundtrack, the "Sgt. Peppers" album in mono, the Beatles Black album, the 13-volume Beatles at the Beeb, the Beatles Collection on Pathe Marconi (France) and the "Let It Be" boxed set.

An avid collector, Pete continues to search for a copy of the mono version of "The White Album" even though he already owns a CD copy. He also wonders if there's a copy somewhere of the Beatles' live performance in Manila in 1964. That was one of the most controversial Beatles concerts ever: After Lennon had claimed that they were more popular than Jesus Christ and then snubbing the Marcoses' invitation to Malacañang Palace, the Fab Four fled Manila, an angry throng at their heels.

Pete recalls that he once took his family on vacation to England to see the landmarks of Beatlemania. They visited Apple Records studios on Abbey Road, London and then rented a car to Liverpool where they toured the houses where each of the Beatles was born and grew up in. He was surprised that there were very little music-related memorabilia in their childhood homes. They checked out Penny Lane, presently just an ordinary street in Liverpool's business district, and Strawberry Fields, which is now a rundown plantation.

The Beatles collector was also taken aback when he saw that Liverpool's Beatles Museum has nothing more than photos of different periods in the group's career. He was particularly disappointed by the absence of rare recordings from Liverpool's famous sons. He promised himself that his planned Beatles museum would be far more interesting than Liverpool's attempt at preserving the legacy of their hometown heroes.

An old punk song in the early '80s ranted that only Beatlemania has bitten the dust. Bah, humbug! In Pete's unique universe and that of their other fans and collectors, Beatlemania rages on. •



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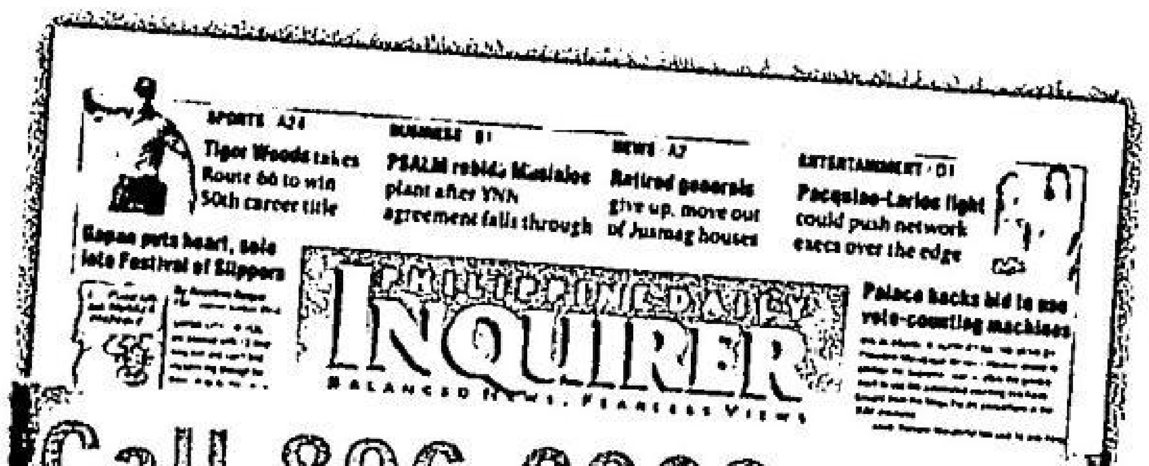

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